



## Sketch

## The Mandelson who fell to Earth



Simon Hoggart

PETER Mandelson made a statement on liberalising the Post Office. Most of it was in management jargon — "high-volume, low mark-up sectors", "cross-subsidies", that kind of stuff. But then, suddenly and alarmingly, he lapsed into English, or at least a variant of that language.

When John Redwood replied scornfully to his statement, he announced: "The kindest thing that could be said is that it should be marked Return to Sender and sent back. We have clearly shot a number of their foxes."

Then, just as you thought he was running out of metaphors as fast as British industry is running out of jobs, he produced this convoluted verbal Gordian knot: "Getting the whiff of a leadership battle, he is lurching further to the right to repeat the old privatisation nostrums of a failed Conservative Party."

There are two explanations for Mr Mandelson's curious use of our native tongue. One, believed by some of my colleagues, is that he has contempt for the Commons and just doesn't care.

(This may be true of all gatherings which he addresses. The other day he spoke to the CBI and asked the businessmen to let him know if they needed his help or had advice to offer. Then he read out his department's address, complete with postcode, adding: "And mark the envelope urgent.")

I had a sudden vision of a junior civil servant dashing into his office shouting: "Secretary of State! There's a letter here from a ball-bearing manufacturer in Birmingham complaining about the strong pound, and it's urgent!" Mr Mandelson hurriedly ushers out the chairman of ICI and rips open the envelope. . .

My own theory is that we've been wrong all the time. It's

Mandelson who is the alien, not Redwood. Redwood is what the Americans call a policy wonk. He is just a little bit more interested in his subject than most people would be. But he is recognisably human. You probably had a Redwood in your class at school. We had two.

But Mr Mandelson learned to speak at Martians school before they sent him down to earth to rule us. It accounts for a lot. In fact, he isn't gay at all; he just fancies other Martians, hence that bizarre "human" figure in the Dome.

It would certainly account for his language. "Careful and phased liberalisation," he said. "A rolling five-year strategic plan." "Robust investment cases." "Flexible means of reflecting performance."

One felt that the phrases had been gummied and stapled together like a combine harvester made out of yoghurt pots on Blue Peter.

There were also faintly threatening lines. If I ran a sub-post office I would be very wary of Mr Mandelson and his interplanetary schemes. He said of the small post offices: "With the best will in the world, the Post Office cannot sustain a network if it is not used. But we intend to ensure reasonable access nationwide to those who need post office service on an electronic basis, or face-to-face."

So if you want to get your pension, hook up to the Internet now.

One of the recurring themes was the apparent threat from "the Dutch and German post offices". I'm afraid I don't want our nice, friendly postwoman replaced by some German in a uniform, saying: "Ziss bill is a red bill! You must pay ziss bill immediately! Schnell!"

Reading between the lines of Mr Mandelson's Martian jargon — "offering differentiated products . . . commercial freedoms" — I sensed a change in our way of life.

No other organisation is a welcome visitor to almost every house in the country, six days a week. The selling opportunities are limitless. In two years' time, your postperson will be selling you orange juice, life insurance, those oven gloves which burn your hands off, and renting you videos, which they'll pick up next day.

Proposal would allow competition but falls short of management's hope for full or partial privatisation

## Post Office freed to invest

Nicholas Bannister, Chief Business Correspondent

THE Post Office is to be freed to make big foreign takeovers and to keep more of its huge profits under government proposals announced yesterday. But the commercial freedoms announced by the Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson, fall short of those wanted by the Post Office management and recommended by a House of Commons select committee.

The PO is to be allowed to borrow money to finance expansion projects — expected to total £1 billion in the next

few years — but such schemes will have to be approved by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Treasury.

However, such borrowings will be counted as part of public borrowing, and could leave Mr Mandelson having to fight the Treasury for approval for the money.

In recent years the PO has watched powerless as foreign post offices have moved into the British market, creaming off international business and taking over companies in the transportation, printing, warehousing and courier business.

Two years ago, for example, the Dutch post office spent more than £1.2 billion buying the TNT global transport

business, while the German post office, which owns 25 per cent of the DHL international courier company, spent £223 million this year on a stake in Securicor's parcel operation and last week acquired a 58 per cent stake in a French parcel distributor.

Mr Mandelson said the PO would have an arms-length relationship with government, which would have to approve the organisation's five-year strategic plan. This would give the PO the freedom to invest, price commercially and borrow. It would continue to have to deliver letters throughout the country at a standard price.

A tough regulator would be set up "to protect customer

interests, regulate prices and enforce fair competition".

The Government did not rule out further changes, such as a minority share sale or an exchange of equity with other businesses.

"In the long term, this also means bringing in legislation to turn the PO into a plc," Mr Mandelson said.

Senior PO executives had been hoping Mr Mandelson would go for full or partial privatisation. But they were prepared to settle for the trade and industry select committee's recommendation that its status should be changed to that of an independent publicly owned corporation. This would have freed it from almost all government

control, with borrowings not counting as part of the politically sensitive public borrowing figures.

Neville Bain, the PO chairman, said: "This is a welcome first step after seven years of frustration following numerous reviews by successive governments."

He added: "A key issue will be the speed at which the white paper is published and whether it will translate the objectives announced today into a real and meaningful strategic arms-length relationship between the PO and the Government."

John Roberts, the PO's chief executive, said it wanted to invest £1 billion to catch up on the competition.

Targets had been identified and deals could be announced in about four months' time.

Under the new arrangements, the Government will take only 40 per cent of the PO profits, compared with about 60 per cent in recent years. This would enable the PO to retain an extra £1 billion over five years, Mr Roberts said.

The Communication Workers Union welcomed the decision not to sell off the PO. But a senior official said there was concern that the industry would be opened up to foreign competition before the PO had the necessary degree of independence to meet it.

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Palestinian protesters with slingshots clash with Israeli troops in Bethlehem and other West Bank cities yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: MENAHEM KAHANA

'They should decide on a national unity cabinet or an election'

Aryeh Deri  
Shas party leader  
and power broker

## Review

## Different shirts, same old sound

Eddie Gibb

Rod Stewart  
SECC, Glasgow

ROD Stewart bounced on stage in a short-sleeved yellow shirt and announced that there were 27 songs to get through, so we'd all better hurry along.

Two hours and three shirts later, the crowd was still doing overhead hand claps while The Star sprinted the length of the stage as if it was part of his daily fitness programme. Occasionally, Rod would stop to execute a star jump, jog on the spot, or do some ill-advised Ninja leg waggles that we will call "dancing". Perspiration was much in evidence, thus the shirt changes.

To say Rod worked would be an understatement: worked out would be more like it. Perhaps this is what living in Beverly Hills does to a man. It might also account for his muscle-bound backing band of LA rockers — goatees, headbands, tattoos — who ensured that, although Rod played his spanning nearly 30 years, most of them sounded the same.

Drum solos, sax breaks and keyboards programmed to fill the gaps made the band perfectly suited to providing the sound track for a hair care ad.

"I'm a rocker at heart," insisted Rod as he cranked up Stay With Me, but the sexy slink of The Faces was lost in the arena-filling thump of the big bass drum. All of which is

a shame, because Rod himself looked chipper for a man half his age. And he still cuts it in the tonsil department.

Two of his borrowed songs — Oasis's Cigarettes and Alcohol and particularly Primal Scream's Rocks — suited his cheery pub rock stamp. Subtle they were not, but neither were the originals.

The audience had paid 40 quid to hear Rod sing the hits. They got 'em. Hot Legs, Young Turks, Rhythm Of My Heart, First Cut Is The Deepest, all followed in a steady stream as Rod dipped into the bag marked "crowd pleasers".

As an Anglo-Scott — not so much ex-pat as hyper-pat — he regards playing Glasgow as a home game. The football metaphor is unavoidable, given Rod's trademark gimmick of kicking plastic balls into the crowd, while giant video screens relayed footage of the Tartan Army.

With a pad in California and another in Essex, Rod Stewart finds expression for his part-time allegiance (we'll leave that hideous electronic bagpipe squeal out of it).

So when Rod says he's a rocker, he is talking through a vent in his tight spangly trousers.

He is showbiz, an entertainer who employs nostalgia and kitsch in equal measure to create a shared experience of the present. It's hard to think of a singer whose songs are so widely sung along to. This was pants for couples with a night off from the kids to relive the seventies.

## Netanyahu clings on as West Bank violence flares

Israeli government close to collapse ahead of Clinton visit

David Sharrock in Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, last night won a two-week reprieve from a crucial parliamentary confidence vote after frantic day-long negotiations which increased the prospect of a change in the government.

Fighting to stay in office just days before President Clinton arrives to try to revitalise the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians, Mr Netanyahu was told last night that in the next fortnight he must decide whether to form a national unity government or call early general elections.

The power-broker behind last night's deal, conducted during hours of filibustering in the Knesset by Netanyahu allies, was Aryeh Deri, leader of the ultra-Orthodox Shas party — Israel's fastest-growing religious political movement.

As the domestic political scene approached meltdown, violence erupted for the fourth day in the West Bank. A Palestinian student related to Yasser Arafat's chief negotiator in the peace process, Saeb Erekat, was shot and declared clinically dead in hospital, while a Jewish settler was shot and injured near the mainly Arab city of Jenin in the West Bank.

The violence and the fraught political situation are

casting an ugly shadow over the visit of President Clinton this weekend, which was meant to show that the international community wanted to see Israel and the Palestinians implement the land-for-peace deal they reached in October at the Wye plantation in Maryland.

But a hunger strike by 2,000 Palestinian prisoners in protest at Israel's failure to free Arab prisoners as pledged in the American-brokered Wye agreement has made the tense atmosphere worse, with Israelis and Palestinians trading ever more incendiary threats.

Nasser Erekat, a 22-year-old student at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University, was pronounced clinically dead at al-Makassed hospital in East Jerusalem last night. He had been shot in the head during a demonstration in Abu Dis, southern Jerusalem. Another

protester was hit in the hip. In the northern West Bank city of Nablus, Palestinian police shot and wounded 11 Arabs in a crowd that tried to storm their headquarters. The protesters had set fire to two police cars and a bus after being beaten back from the Israeli enclave of Joseph's Tomb during a rally in support of prisoners.

Israel's political turmoil, created by the gaping divisions in Mr Netanyahu's coalition after the Wye deal, which is supposed to return a further 13 per cent of the West Bank to the Palestinians in return for a crackdown on Islamist extremists — has put into doubt the schedule of President Clinton's three-day visit, which is due to begin on Saturday.

"What am I going to tell him, not to come, don't come?" the prime minister

asked on army radio. "I can prevent him from coming! We're not accustomed to refusing someone who wants to come." Mr Netanyahu's woes were brought on by a failed bid to strengthen his government by enticing a former foreign minister, David Levy, back into the cabinet and bolstering his meagre Knesset majority of 61-59.

But Mr Levy turned him down and the opposition Labour Party, which removed its "safety net" after Mr Netanyahu announced last week he was suspending implementation of the Wye agreement because of alleged Palestinian misdemeanours — was confident it had enough votes to defeat the government.

After last night's deal, which sets back the confidence vote by a fortnight, Mr Deri of the Shas party said: "Over the next two weeks

they [Mr Netanyahu and the Labour leader, Ehud Barak] should decide whether to get together to form a national unity government or call elections."

Earlier, Palestinian officials said Mr Clinton, Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat, the Palestinian leader, would be meeting during the US leaders' visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority territories.

The summit will take place on Monday at Exat (the Israel-Gaza border crossing) after Clinton ends his visit to Gaza where he will address a large gathering of Palestinian legislators and ministers on the peace process. A senior Palestinian official said:

Israeli officials, on the other hand, said the meeting may take place in Ashkelon, an Israeli coastal town north of Gaza.



Jonathan Aitken leaving the Bow Street court yesterday where he was committed for trial

## Aitken to stand trial at Old Bailey

Jamie Wilson

FORMER Conservative cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken was yesterday committed to stand trial at the Old Bailey on charges of perjury, conspiring to pervert the course of justice and perverting the course of justice.

In a 10-minute hearing at Bow Street magistrates' court, London, Said Mohammed Ayes, Aitken's friend and former business associate, was also committed to stand trial on a charge of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

The charges against Ait-

ken, aged 56, who was Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 1994-95, and Ayes, also 56, relate to the collapse in June last year of Aitken's High Court libel action against the Guardian and Granada television's World In Action.

Neither Aitken or Ayes said anything as Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate Graham Parkinson formally directed they should stand trial at the Old Bailey. A plea and directions hearing was provisionally scheduled for January 18, next year.

Aitken was bailed on the condition that he lives and sleeps at his given London

address in Westminster and that he notifies police of any change of address.

Both Aitken and Ayes face one joint charge, that they conspired to pervert the course of justice, along with Aitken's estranged wife Lolita, between April 1995 and the collapse of the libel trial by giving false accounts of the events surrounding Aitken's stay at the Ritz hotel in Paris in September 1993.

Ayes is charged with perverting the course of justice by signing a witness statement made on oath concerning Aitken's stay at the Ritz. Aitken faces three further charges. The first is

perverting the course of justice by making and signing a witness statement which gave a false version of events.

The second is that he drafted a false witness statement in the name of his daughter, Victoria Aitken, and obtained her signature to that statement.

The final charge against Aitken is perjury concerning the evidence he gave on oath during the libel trial.

Life imprisonment is the maximum sentence for perverting the course of justice and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. The maximum sentence for perjury is seven years.

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Alison Lawson, spokesperson for Barry Horne (top right), said doctors were 'concerned'



**The Barry Horne affair:** He has been refusing food for nearly nine weeks. Damage to his health is said to be irreparable



Elaine Jacobs, a supporter of Barry Horne's protest, ties a ribbon to the hospital fence

## Vigil provokes anger and despair

**The protest:** 'He doesn't want to die but he says only the Government can save him, by keeping its promise of an inquiry'

Martin Wainwright

**A**NIMAL rights campaigner Barry Horne was close to unconsciousness last night as a smattering of supporters held a vigil outside York district hospital.

The category A prisoner, serving 18 years for firebombing shops across the south of England, is "weak and increasingly prone to sickness", according to his closest supporter, Alison Lawson, who delivered her daily bulletin to the cluster of campaigners huddled round a pallet fire in a dustbin. He has been refusing

food for nearly nine weeks. "He is having trouble keeping down water," she said. "He doesn't want to die but he says that only Labour can save him, by keeping their promise of an inquiry into animal research."

The hospital said that Mr Horne, aged 43, who is under guard in his third floor room and may be visited only on a Home Office permit, was "stable but giving cause for concern". Ms Lawson, aged 29, who has campaigned with Mr Horne for more than a decade and been designated by him as his legal next-of-kin, said

that doctors were not giving her information about the protest on her visits to his bedside, but were clearly concerned that irreparable damage might have been done to his health.

She and other supporters took every chance, amid the Greenham Common-like debris of their road verge camp, to emphasise that Mr Horne's aims were modest: in spite of his violent record, the twice-married former dustman is not fasting to press for the outlawing of research experiments on animals, even those conducted for cosmetic products. "Of course he is

against it, but he's on hunger strike for a royal commission, which Labour promised to support in their election campaign," said Patrick Coleman, aged 33, a former student from Manchester, who has been sleeping out on a Z-bed under dustbin-liner strung from a cherry tree. "He's not there saying: stop animal research, but keep your promise and have a royal commission."

Pre-election Labour posters giving the guarantee — but with "Life for Animals" changed to "Lies" — lean against the wall of the hospital, which has stepped up security and locks all but one door after 5pm. Some patients and visitors have reacted angrily, especially after three supporters of Mr Horne used a fire escape to reach the hospital roof and sling a banner out briefly.

Mr Horne sent a further message out denying that his hunger strike was counterproductive, despite the Government's determination not to act under duress and Tony Blair's description of the fast as "blackmail". Ms Lawson said: "Barry thinks that's an outrageous attitude. The pressure has come from the Government's refusal to do any

thing when we asked and argued for it patiently." Campaigners have been kept away from the back of the hospital's east block, where Mr Horne's room looks out over lawns and a factory, since he managed a brief appearance four days ago.

Lisa Garton, from York Animal Aid, said: "It took a huge amount out of him. He had to sit on his bed getting his strength up for 15 minutes before going over to the window and managing a wave."

She and Elaine Jacobs, also from York Animal Aid, said that local people regularly hooted support on car horns and brought drinks and food.

One passer-by, company chairman Donald Cox, stopped in the middle of Mr Lawson's bulletin to argue the issue. "I see the real victims when I go into the hospital to visit my wife," he said. "People like a 21-year-old girl who has lost her sight and begs for her eyes back. They're the ones we should be worrying about, not people who put themselves inside deliberately."

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## Our aim is to end suffering too, says man at top of militia hit list

Will Woodward on the feelings of those at the sharp end of terrorist threats

**T**HE man at the top of an animal rights assassination "hit list" last night condemned Barry Horne's protest as futile.

Christopher Brown, who owns the Hillgrove Farm in Witney, Oxfordshire, admitted he was worried by the threat, issued last week by the Animal Rights Militia. The militia, believed to be supporters of the Animal Liberation Front working under a different guise, vowed to kill 10 people if Mr Horne dies and named four of them.

Mr Brown, who runs a commercial cat farm, was named first, along with Oxford University professor Colin Blakemore, Clive Page of King's College in London, and Mark Matfield, director of the Research Defence Society, which defends experiments

on animals for medical research.

"Of course I am worried about the repercussions. Any terrorism threat has got to be taken seriously," said Mr Brown.

"I can't see the point and I think it puts their cause back. They are just using it as an excuse for terrorism. If they want to get the Government to have a royal commission, this is going to put it back by a year at least because this government aren't going to give in to terrorism."

He said he sold about 1,000 cats a year, of which 80 per cent went to test cat vaccines. His centre produces a specific pathogen free (SPF) cat, free of feline viruses so vaccines can be tested on them. Like animal rights protesters, he was "working to try and prevent suffering." He added: "If they can give me

any proof of anybody actually treating our cats in research, I would stop supplying them."

Mr Brown has become a constant target of animal rights activists. He has been sent letter bombs in the past. There are regular demonstrations outside the farm: five people were arrested on Sunday during a protest. Others regard him as a hero for holding out when some establishments — recently a beagle breeding centre in Herefordshire — have closed after the

owners were intimidated by protesters.

Colchester Zoo earlier this year received what it feared was a letter bomb. Explosives experts were called in and checked the package, which was found to be a hoax. Mr Horne's hunger strike, though not directly linked to zoos, worries director Dominique Tropeano that he will receive new threats.

At pharmaceutical companies, vigilance is being stepped up. Almost all scan packages as a matter of

course. Tony Eaton, public affairs director at Hoechst Marion Roussel, described Mr Horne's protest as a "retrograde step".

Violent animal rights activity is monitored by a small Special Branch unit, the Animal Rights National Index, set up in 1986. A police source said yesterday there had been a "sea change" over recent years with activists moving away from explosives and more general arson. Instead, they had learned from disruptive protest movements

like the anti-car group Reclaim the Streets.

Some animal rights activists claim the reduction in violence was due to hope that the Labour government would deliver more change. Robin Webb, press officer for the Animal Liberation Front, said: "Activity tended to slack off after Labour's election. If Barry dies, it will act as a catalyst to unleash all the frustration that has been felt against a government of broken promises."

### The questions — and answers

**What are the aims of the research?**  
The research is aimed at developing techniques for cloning humans. It involves creating embryos in the laboratory, which are then implanted into a woman's uterus. The aim is to create a child who is genetically identical to the donor.

**What are the risks?**  
There are several risks associated with human cloning. The most significant is the risk of genetic defects. Cloning involves creating embryos in the laboratory, which are then implanted into a woman's uterus. This process can lead to genetic defects, which can result in a child who is born with a serious illness or disability.

**What are the ethical issues?**  
There are several ethical issues surrounding human cloning. The most significant is the issue of the status of the embryo. Some people believe that embryos are human beings from the moment they are created, and therefore deserve the same protection as human beings. Others believe that embryos are merely cells, and therefore do not deserve the same protection.

**What are the potential benefits?**  
There are several potential benefits to human cloning. The most significant is the potential to create a child who is genetically identical to a deceased loved one. This could be a great comfort to people who have lost a child or a loved one.

### Authority leaves door open for first steps in human cloning

continued from page 1  
Patrick Dixon, a leading anti-cloning campaigner, said the HFEA's report would be "a Christmas present for cloners around the world".  
If British scientists develop the technology to clone an embryo for therapeutic uses, they will also unravel the secrets of creating new life, he argues.  
"Human clones will be created in British labs," Dr Dixon predicted, and would be clones of new human beings, such as Richard Seed in the United States, would be able to profit from the research.  
"It has never been more urgent to establish a ban on reproductive human cloning," he said.  
He and the pro-life lobby are also concerned that embryos will be created solely to be destroyed.  
But anything that might be allowed by the HFEA in the name of research is allowed in most other countries. Britain is the most highly regulated nation in the world. In the United States, President Clinton's demands for a cloning ban were blocked by Congress.

**William Hague calculated that the chances of his aunt getting all six numbers were 15 million to one; the exact same odds he'd worked out he had of becoming the next Prime Minister.**  
Armando Iannucci

G2 page 5

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## Profile: Lord Hoffman

## Formidable and witty judge with hint of political naivety

Clare Dyer on law lord under fire from Pinochet's lawyers

**L**ORD Hoffman — known by all as Lenny — is no stranger to political controversy. Law Lords are supposedly politically neutral, but at the time of the Neil Hamilton "cash for questions" row he played a part in getting the law on parliamentary privilege changed so that MPs could sue the Guardian for libel. Believed to have been a victim of his political naivety, Lord Hoffman put down an amendment, after being "sounded out" by the then Tory lord chancellor Lord Mackay, to allow MPs to waive parliamentary privilege so that proceedings in Parliament could be examined by a court of law. He took the view that the MP should have the same right as anyone else to sue for libel. But, after noting the number of Tory peers who turned up to vote, he concluded there had been

"whip-like activity" and decided not to speak to his amendment.

The law lords who heard the Pinochet case were not specially chosen. They had been scheduled to hear an asylum case that was postponed to allow the appeal. It only became clear a short while before the appeal was heard that Amnesty International would be allowed to intervene. So Lord Hoffman would not have had much time to apply his mind to any possible conflict of interest.

Lord Hoffman was born in 1934 into a Jewish family from Muizenberg, near Cape Town. His father was a well known solicitor. His wife, Gillian, whom he married in 1957, comes from the same background. The couple have two daughters and several grandchildren.

He was educated at Cape Town university and came

to Queen's College, Oxford, as a Rhodes Scholar. Like another law lord in the Pinochet case, Lord Steyn, who comes from an African family.

He taught at Oxford before he was called to the Bar, where he was one of the most sought after and highly-priced barristers of his generation, and was quickly made a judge.

He and his wife live in a Georgian house worth more than £1 million in Hampstead in north London, and have a weekend cottage at Chedworth in Gloucestershire (he is Lord Hoffman of Chedworth).

Lord Hoffman is reckoned the cleverest of the law lords and the most daunting to appear before. He revels in the dialogue style of House of Lords hearings, in which judges fire questions at lawyers. Impatient with waffling QCs, he cuts away verbiage to go to the heart of the matter, often revealing his sympathies.

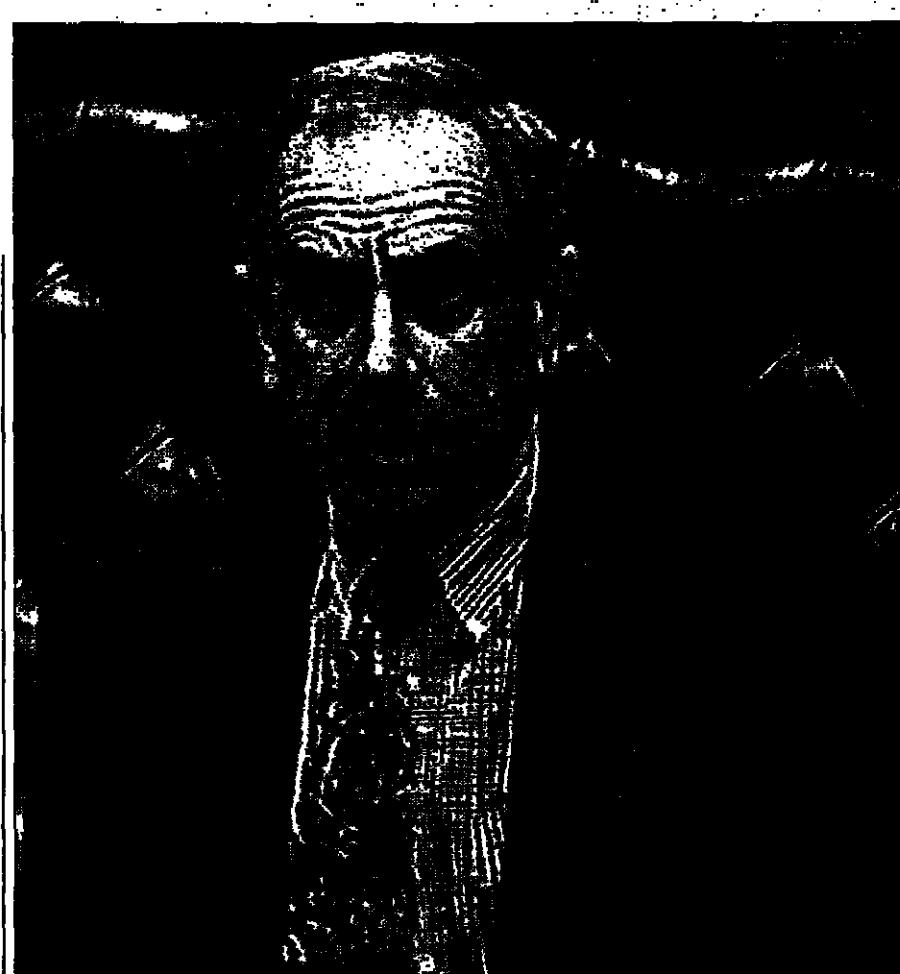
Like other South Africans in Britain, he was as-

sumed to be liberal. But his judgments have shown him rather conservative on a number of issues. Unlike his wife, Gillian, who has strong political views, he is not seen as having much instinctive feel for human rights issues.

"Hoffmann has shown no obvious political allegiances," said one lawyer who has known him for years. "He doesn't move with political sets." As a High Court judge, he ordered a journalist to reveal his sources. The ruling was later held a breach of human rights by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Witty, amusing and convivial, he is a frequent party-goer. He likes opera and has served on the board of English National Opera and on the Arts Council advisory committee on London orchestras.

His hobby is cycling, and he keeps him extremely fit. He cycles to work and takes long distance trips around Europe, last summer from London to Barcelona.



Lord Hoffman in the Lords last month, overturning Augusto Pinochet's immunity

## IRA reviews arms logjam

John Heilbrunn  
Ireland Correspondent

**T**HE IRA leadership last weekend staged a rare conference to assess the logjam over the decommissioning of terrorist weapons which is threatening the Good Friday Agreement.

Security sources said the two day meeting took place in Co. Cavan, just inside the republic. About 60 delegates were involved, but there is no indication of the outcome.

IRA army conventions are unusual. The last one, in May, paved the way for Sinn Féin to take up its places in the Northern Ireland assembly.

A similar change would be needed if the IRA was to embrace decommissioning, which is banned under its constitution.

The meeting came as Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin president, repeated his criticism of First Minister David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists. He accused him of backtracking on an agreement brokered by Tony Blair last week on the make-up of Northern Ireland's ministries and fledgling cross-border bodies.

Mr Trimble, meanwhile, warned that the province could be facing a re-run of the Sunningdale fiasco of 1974 — the last attempt at devolution.

He told journalists in Washington the reason the power-sharing executive collapsed 24 years ago was because nationalists were too ambitious in seeking widespread powers for cross-border bodies. "There are dangers in history repeating itself."

The exchanges came as the leaders of eight Northern Ireland political parties meet in Washington tonight to be honoured for their part in producing the agreement.

The row casts a pall over the Nobel Peace Prize, to be awarded jointly to Mr Trimble and SDLP leader John Hume in Oslo on Thursday. It was meant to recognise the new beginnings, but Ulster Unionists and the SDLP are angrily divided.

Mr Blair is determined to find a solution before Christmas to the scope and make-up of the institutions envisaged under the agreement. Failure to do that would mean the Government will be unable to rush through the legislation in time for the handover of powers from Westminster to the assembly in February.

## Protest as empty ward used to house Romanian refugees

Nory Carroll

**S**IXTY Romanian women and children last night bedded down on camp beds in a disused hospital ward, baffled by a furore breaking over them.

Protests by Kent residents at the decision to house the asylum seekers at a hospital — albeit in an unfurnished 1953 smallpox isolation unit unsuitable for modern treatment — were greeted with disbelief. "Do sick English people want to be here?" asked one woman, through an interpreter.

Managers at Joyce Green hospital, Dartford, Kent, tried to defuse criticism that an overstretched NHS should not be accommodating people who enter Britain illegally, and predicted they would be moved by Friday.

A straw poll of Dartford locals suggested most were convinced that patients had been evicted to make room for the Romanians, even though the ward was closed two years ago because there was no lift.

The women and children were among 103 Gypsies found hidden in a 40ft lorry at the Dartford freight terminal on December 3, the biggest group to enter Britain illegally after crossing from Belgium.

The 42 men are being held in detention centres by the immigration service, but it is the responsibility of Kent county council to house and feed the women and children.

Anne-Marie Dean, chief executive of the Dartford and Gravesham NHS trust, dismissed reports that £100,000 would be spent — a figure condemned by MPs. "It was made up," she said. "This is costing us virtually nothing, though we don't know what the final figure will be."

Ms Dean also rejected reports that the asylum seekers had disrupted hospital life or angered staff by spurning porridge. "There's not been a single incident."

The ward has social service workers and a guard but no nurses, doctors or NHS equipment. Residents in the ward opposite were unaware

of the Romanians. "Not seen a thing," said one man.

Most of the asylum seekers came from Tandra, a village in east Romania, said Dan Dumitriu, a translator working for social services.

They fled to Britain to escape persecution from police and government agencies, said Tamas Simina, aged 31, breast-feeding one of her six children.

"They didn't like us. They wanted us to go, go away, go anywhere. The journey was horrible." The mambo chose Britain and she wasn't sure why. Surrounded by dozens of relatives and children, Mrs Simina cried when she spoke of her husband, Dragoi Drema, 36.

"I want him back. Where is he? Where are our men? Why can't we be together?"

Her impressions of Britain were that the weather was cold and the food strange.

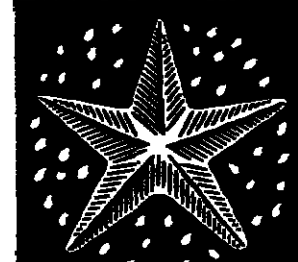
"They're not aware of a cash crisis in the NHS, or of the NHS. They just want their men back," said Mr Dumitriu.



A Romanian refugee with her children at the former isolation unit in Dartford, Kent

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARBLES

The Guardian



Christmas appeal

The Guardian's Christmas appeal offers readers the opportunity to donate to up to eight charities. Today **Amelia Gentleman** reports on the work of WaterAid

## Relentless struggle for clean water

**O**NE of the first things every child learns in the urban slums of Dhaka is the true value of water. Every sip must be savoured, not a drop should be wasted.

Procuring safe, clean water to drink is a relentless struggle, which often involves journeying long distances, paying extortionate prices to the local mafia and risking the possibility that it may be contaminated. The capital's 4 million slum dwellers have become adept at rationing their consumption of this most basic resource.

The conditions endured by Bangladesh's expanding slum population are some of the toughest known. The statistics make grim reading: some 80 per cent of slum dwellers are chronically malnourished and Dhaka has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world, with children dying from easily preventable diseases. Severe flooding this year has created a huge and unexpected burden. With as many as 1,000 people sharing a water pipe, the shortage of easily accessible water is a pressing problem and one so fundamental that it is hard for locals to make any other meaningful improvements to their lives until it is resolved.

This is where WaterAid can help. The charity was set up to help provide clean drinking water to developing countries, working alongside local com-

munities and providing them with the equipment and skills to build and maintain the new systems.

In Bangladesh the task is not an easy one. The country is one of the most densely populated in the world. Fresh water has become a valuable commodity, with neighbourhood gangsters controlling illegal water supplies siphoned from municipal pipes.

"Organised crime is rife in this area. Water is one of those vital things it is important to control — because it is essential there is a lot of money to be made," says Simon Trace, regional manager of the charity's Asia operations. "If you look anywhere in the world, you will see the poor are paying far more for water than the middle classes. In Dhaka we estimate that water costs as much as 35 times more for people in urban slums as it does for the middle classes who are connected to the system."

John Lane, WaterAid's director, adds: "We have an absurd situation where the country's poorest people are spending between 25 and 40 per cent of their income on water. That sort of inequality we find morally repugnant."

While slum dwellers will scrape together enough money to pay for drinking water, they make savings where they can. Mr Trace, whose staff were inspired to try to resolve the water prob-

lem when they found that most of the illnesses they were treating were water related. They decided to apply for the water connections in their name and then got the local community to repay them.

"It's a simple strategy and it works," Mr Trace says. "We have to be realistic — WaterAid is never going to be able to supply water to all the millions of slum dwellers in Bangladesh. What we are trying to do is to develop a successful way of working and then encourage others to adopt it."

But providing water in isolation is not enough. The charity also aims to install sanitation and to provide hygiene education, to ensure the full benefits of clean water are felt. Mr Lane says: "Sanitation is not a glamorous cause. It gets forgotten by politicians who prefer to focus on sure vote-winners like providing water. People still don't realise that health improvements do not come from clean water alone."

WaterAid has developed cost-effective ways of supplying water, and much can be achieved with relatively small amounts of money. The results are inspiring.

"The provision of safe water and sanitation makes one of the most important improvements possible to these people's lives," Mr Trace says.

"It reduces mortality rates

drastically, it reduces the amount people need to spend on water and on doctors, which increases the amount that can be spent on food. Everything stems from it."

## The charity

□ About a quarter of the world's population — some 1.4 billion people — do not have access to clean, safe water. More than 2 billion people do not have proper sanitation.

□ Every hour more than 600 people die because of contaminated, inadequate or non-existent water.

□ WaterAid works to provide drinking water to developing countries, co-operating with local communities and non-governmental organisations, to install simple water systems. The charity helps to provide the equipment and the skills to build and maintain the new systems, so that residents quickly become self-sufficient.

□ Because health improvements do not come from clean water alone, the organisation also installs sanitation systems and works to improve public hygiene through public education programmes.

□ WaterAid has developed cost-effective ways of resolving shortages. Just £1 pays for enough cement to build a latrine; £10 will buy a simple suction pump to pump water from a reservoir; £30 pays for the salary of a hygiene educator for 200 slum families for a month; and £470 will pay for the installation of a public water point in an urban slum, which can be used by up to 100 families.

□ "These things are fundamental for improving people's health," says John Lane, the charity's director.

Woman in Dhaka facing the struggle for clean water. The local mafia controls illegal sources and the government refuses to supply slum dwellers

PHOTOGRAPH: WATERAID/LISA TAYLOR

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All eyes on the sexual chemistry... Mark Rylance, left, cast as Cleopatra at the Globe, and right, Elizabeth Taylor as the Egyptian queen in the Hollywood film version

## The biggest asp cast master in the world

Dan Glaister on cross-dressing in Shakespeare 'for sake of authenticity'

**M**ARK Rylance, artistic director of Shakespeare's Globe, is to play the role of Cleopatra in the theatre's next season, starting in May.

Handing the role of the Queen of the Nile to a man is one of several recent examples of cross-casting, although it is more often in the reverse direction with women taking roles written for men.

But while many cross-casting experiments are carried out in the name of quota filling, granting employment to actresses, or simply to satisfy curiosity, the Globe's decision has been taken in the name of authenticity.

All Shakespeare's plays were originally written for and performed by men, although the female parts were played by boys. Rylance, by contrast, is 37.

A spokeswoman for the theatre said: "Part of the mission of the Globe is to explore the original playing practices. So as well as casting, we will use authentically made costumes."

"A lot of time and research goes into it."

"The dyes and materials and fastenings used are authentic. For example, urine is used to dye the underwear."

But all eyes will be on the sexual chemistry between Rylance as Cleopatra and his lover, the virile Antony.

"It's going to be very interesting to see how he plays Cleopatra and to see who plays Antony opposite him," the spokeswoman added. "Antony is going to have to be the right kind of macho."

"They are such a passionate couple. But Mark has a sensitivity about him that will help, and a voice that is not very low."

Henry V, the Globe's first production when it opened last year, was performed with an all-male cast. That production included a scene in which Princess Katherine, played by Toby Cockerell — described as "shyly virginal" in the Guardian — was wooed by the king, played by Rylance. "That didn't come across in any way as camp or as someone in drag," the spokeswoman said.

Rylance as Cleopatra is a relatively rare example of a man taking the part of a woman. Other than his own production of Henry V last year, there was an all-male production of As You Like It three years ago, starring Adrian Lester as Rosalind. That production, staged by the independent Cheek By Jowl company, proved so successful it transferred to the West End. The previous all-male version was Clifford Williams's National Theatre production at the Old Vic in 1967.

Another switch is the role of Peter Pan, played by a man in the current Royal National Theatre production. Traditionally, Peter has been played by a woman.

One of the most acclaimed examples of cross-casting was Fiona Shaw's interpretation of Richard II at the National in 1985.

Other examples abound, from Frances de la Tour, who played Hamlet in 1991, to the current revival of an all-female version of Robin Hood — retitled Robyn Hood — at the Drill Hall in London.

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However, should the Globe's audiences feel the same about Rylance's essay in femininity with Cleopatra, there is only one way they could express their disapproval in a fitting manner for an institution so preoccupied with authenticity: by throwing cabbages.

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Kathryn Hunter fulfilled a life long ambition last year when she played King Lear at the Young Vic.

"I've had this wish since I was 13 to play Lear," she said, "when I heard my teacher read the play; she had this vast bosom heaving with emotion."

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## Speed-up of house sales 'will need legal force'

Rupert Jones

**C**HANGES to speed up house buying are unlikely to succeed unless they are made compulsory, the Government was warned yesterday.

Proposals put forward by ministers would mean sellers having to meet much more of the costs of a sale. They would have to prepare an information pack on the property, probably including a survey, adding £400 to the £1,400 typically spent.

The changes could cut the time to buy a house from an average 12 weeks to between six and eight weeks.

The Government is consulting the housing industry on whether it would be sufficient for the measures to be voluntary. But estate agents and some consumer groups said that, unless all sellers were compelled to assemble packs, the change risked creating a system that penalised those who complied with it. A seller who dutifully put together a pack could pay twice for a survey if the seller of the property he or she went on to buy refused to commission one.

The Housing Minister, Hilary Armstrong, said: "Buying or selling your home can be one of the most stressful experiences in modern life. People expect to have a bad time and often end up having a worse one. It takes too long, it's inefficient and it doesn't look after the best interests of buyers or sellers. We want to see if we can get success without the stress."

Research accompanying yesterday's consultation paper showed that the average of 12 weeks to buy a house in England and Wales was longer than almost anywhere in the world. But contrary to popular opinion gazzumping — where the seller accepts a higher offer after agreeing a lower price with another purchaser — affects only 1 to 2 per cent of transactions, and ministers have not proposed any financial penalties on sellers.

The central proposal is for sellers to prepare an information pack before putting the property on the market: copies of title documents, local authority search information, guarantees for work carried out, and relevant correspondence.

Ministers said they "like the idea" of also including a survey report on the condition of the property, but were waiting to hear the response to this proposal. The type of survey most likely to be included is the home buyer's report, which costs around £250. In all, the pack could add £350-£400 to the vendor's costs, according to the consultation paper, presumably meaning buyers would gain an equivalent amount, although critics suggested the cost of the pack would be added on to the house price.

"Obviously we support the principle that potential buyers can get access to information at an earlier stage. But the vendor is going to want to see the cost of the survey recouped in the price they are charging for the house," said the Council of Mortgage Lenders, which represents banks and building societies.

People might also be hesitant about relying on a seller's survey, and would want to commission their own. The consultation paper also wants buyers to be better prepared by obtaining "in principle" mortgage offers before making a bid on for a property.

Geoff Hoon, Minister of State at the Lord Chancellor's Department, said one of the "difficult" areas was whether the changes could be merely voluntary. Compulsion would mean legislation, plus sanc-

**SELLER**  
☐ Already has to pay a solicitor's fee for conveyancing — typically £345.  
☐ Will continue to pay the estate agent's fee, around £1,000.  
☐ Under proposals, will also have to provide "seller's pack", including a survey and local authority search costing around £400.

**BUYER**  
☐ Will continue to pay solicitor's fees, though these will be reduced somewhat because some information will have been provided by the seller.  
☐ Stamp duty is levied on properties over £50,000, and will continue to be paid by the buyer. It typically adds £1,058 to the costs of those it affects.

tions for those who failed to meet the requirements. But, said Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy of the National Association of Estate Agents, for the measures to work, they had to be mandatory, otherwise there would be a two-tier system discriminating against those who took the trouble to assemble a pack.

Other proposals include: mortgage lenders to supply title documents to the seller's solicitor or conveyancer within five working days of a request; local authorities to meet a target of replying to requests for a standard search within 10 working days; lenders to make faster offers, aiming to deal with 80 per cent of applications within two working days of getting information, and to look at offering more flexible loans to help buyers escape a chain, instead of expensive bridging loans; and insurers to be encouraged to develop policies to help protect buyers and sellers from gazzumping.

## Short leaves Downing St groaning

Nicholas Watt on the alleged gaffe by overseas minister which left exporters fuming

**D**OWNING STREET must be used to the sound of wearisome groans yesterday when the papers arrived with banner headlines proclaiming that Clare Short had made yet another gaffe.

Her candid, off the cuff, style had once again shot the International Development Secretary on to the front pages after she admitted ignoring advice from her officials to lobby on behalf of British businesses during an official visit to China.

"Within my briefing there was some suggestion that I might raise the odd contract that was around, I didn't bother," she told ITV's Dimbleby programme.

Realising that she was on sensitive ground, Ms Short added: "Perhaps I shouldn't say that... I think China and any other country should buy the most bargain-full project that is on offer."

Disgrace, boomed the Tories, that Ms Short should fall in her duty to bat for British business while abroad. Astounding, thundered business leaders, that exporters lobbying with a strong pound should be given such poor support.

Downing Street insisted that it was "seriously relaxed" about Ms Short's remarks. But the Prime Minister's official spokesman was forced once again on to the defensive by the outspoken Ms Short as he stressed that the Government has a "very proactive policy in promoting British companies overseas".

Labour MPs, who have gleated at Ms Short's gaffes in the past, were unfazed by her frank admission. One senior MP said: "I don't see anyone lining up to take a shot at Clare over this one. The Tories made a mess over linking aid with trade and it's more likely to be a Labour gaffe."

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Her grasp of geography was also a little weak because golden elephants are more likely to be found in India than in the Caribbean.

The Montserrat episode, which still registers the highest mark on the Clare Short gaffometer, set the tone for a whole string of ill-thought-out outbursts. She had a fair point, but she made it in such a clod-hopping way that the message was lost.

So it was this summer when the Red Cross, which might expect to be one of the organisations trumpeted by Ms Short, found itself on the sharp end of her tongue after lending its support to an appeal to help victims of the famine in Sudan. Ms Short claimed that the appeal was pointless because the famine was caused by the country's civil war, not by a lack of food from the West. It was a brave thing to say on such an emotive subject.

But she ruined her message by going on to say that such appeals induced famine fatigue in the West because they made people "blinch and turn away". When the Red Cross hit back, Ms Short dug herself into an even deeper hole by likening Red Cross appeals to "999 crews rattling boxes to raise funds when they don't need it to run the ambulances". Asked about her outburst in the Commons, Ms Short angrily hit back at the press, saying that nobody should believe what they read in the papers.

Her remarks irritated Downing Street and fuelled speculation about long Tony Blair could tolerate her in the Cabinet. But they were particularly damaging for Ms Short because they undermined her position in the party as a talisman to Old Labour. If Clare's on board it can't be that bad goes the thinking.

The likes of Ann Clwyd, Labour's former overseas development spokeswoman, took great offence to the Red Cross outburst because she felt it could have come from the lips of an insensitive Tory. But Ms Short stood by her remarks when she was questioned by Ms Clwyd during a Commons committee hearing a few weeks. "I think, with respect Ann, you seem to want to take up an old row," she snapped at her colleague.

In her stubbornness Ms Short seems to relish her role of speaking out freely, giving the impression that she is attempting to live up to Ernie Bevin's famous remark about how the Labour leader George Lansbury was guilty of "hawking his conscience round the chancelleries of Europe".

For the moment the Prime Minister is happy to tolerate

### Short shrift

**S**INCE she became the first International Development Secretary last year Clare Short has dismayed Downing Street and delighted her opponents with a string of outbursts, writes Nicholas Watt.

In her most infamous remarks, Ms Short accused leaders on the Caribbean island of Montserrat last year of making such demands after the volcano that "they will be wanting golden elephants next".

A TV documentary decried to be a serious study of Ms Short in her new role, backfired when she attacked Cabinet colleagues. In an interview for Clare's New World, she said that a fellow Cabinet minister had made up a story saying she had compared the Ulster Unionists to the Klu Klux

Klan. "It's utterly malicious. It's someone in the Cabinet because it's a lie about a discussion that did take place."

Before the 1997 election she ventured into the no-go area of legalising drugs when she told BBC's Breakfast with Frost: "We should get some archbishops and former chief constables and see if we can't organise the whole thing better."

Ms Short also sailed into one highly sensitive area of taxes in 1996, the year before the election, when she contradicted Tony Blair's claim that people earning less than £40,000 may pay less tax under Labour. "I think in a fair tax system people like me would pay a bit more tax," Ms Short, then earning £34,000, said.

Ms Short, who is still held in great affection among party grassroots. But there have been murmurings about how long his patience will last.

Only last month Ms Short infuriated Downing Street when she blew apart the Government's carefully crafted stance that the Monica Lewinsky affair was a matter for the American people.

During an appearance on BBC's Question Time she described President Clinton as "a politician that has done that much, told that many lies, isn't really fit to be a leader". The Prime Minister was embarrassed because newspapers seized on the inconsistency of a cabinet minister calling to Clinton's head just weeks after he had publicly lent his support to the President.

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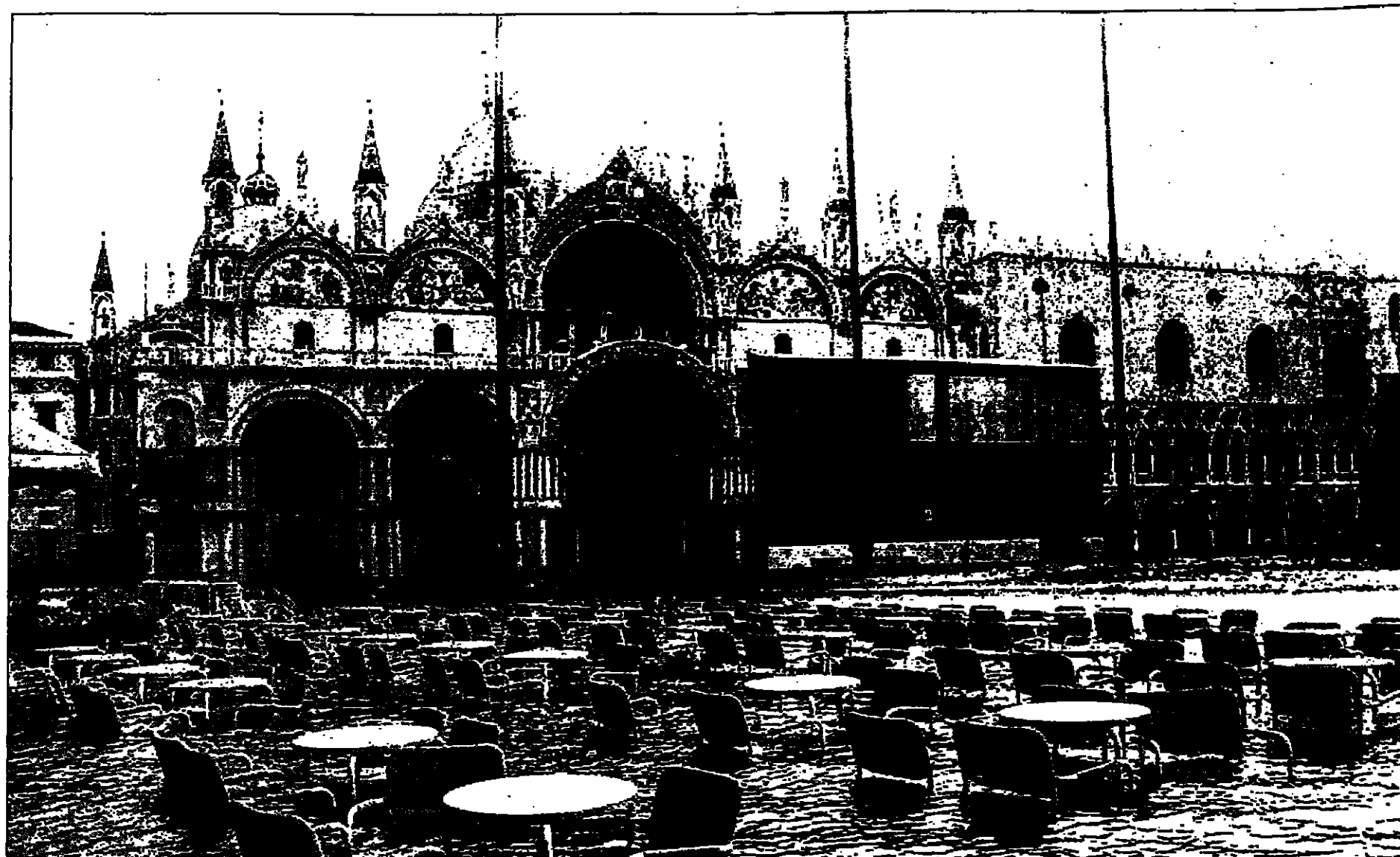
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Thirty-two years after the world was first alerted to the problems facing Venice, and with predictions that St Mark's Square could be flooded every day by the middle of 2000, **John Hooper** reports from Rome that the best way to tackle the problem of rising waters has still to be agreed



In 1996 St Mark's Square was submerged for no less than 101 days during Venice's worst ever year for floods

## Moses project expected to sink

**T**HE backers of a £1.4 billion project to save Venice from the waters of the Adriatic are bracing themselves for the plan to be thrown out later this week by government advisers.

The expected outcome will bring yet more delay as engineers, environmentalists and politicians continue to wrangle over how best to preserve the city.

It is 32 years since the floods that first alerted the world to the danger Venice faces. Yet still no solution to the problem has been agreed. The scheme favoured by the city's shopkeepers is the Moses project, which would involve fixing 79 barriers to the bed of the lagoon with hinge-like fastenings.

Whenever the tide rose beyond a certain point, these giant flaps — each measuring about 60ft by 90ft and weighing about 300 tons — would lift up. The consortium behind

the project estimates that the barriers would be raised once a month on average. Only the tops would be visible.

The technical details of the scheme were finalised six years ago. Since then Moses has won approval from Italy's national public works board and a committee of international experts headed by the president of the scientific committee of the European Union's environment agency, Philippe Borgeau.

But for the present centre-left administration to give it the go-ahead, it needs a favourable environmental impact assessment. And according to reports at the weekend, the panel examining the scheme has decided the ecological cost is too high.

Most environmentalists are opposed to Moses on the grounds that it could destroy the lagoon's delicate ecosystem without providing an enduring answer to the recurrent flooding.

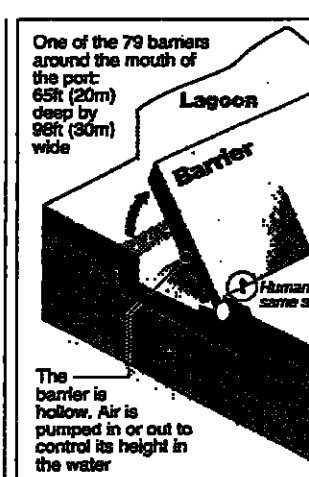
They are not alone in their doubts. Earlier this year the Royal Geographical Society published a study by the British flood control expert Edmund Penning-Rowell.

He estimated that, because global warming was raising sea levels, St Mark's Square — the city's lowest point — could be flooded every day by the middle of the next century. Then the barriers would need to be kept up permanently and the lagoon would lose all contact with the sea.

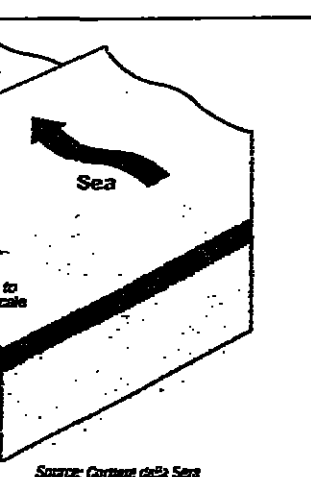
Environmentalists support less drastic measures, including raising the canal banks and paved areas of Venice. Their views are currently of the utmost political importance.

The Greens are part of the centre-left coalition that keeps the prime minister, Massimo D'Alema, in office. Though their support is not crucial to his survival, he is keen to keep a broad power base.

A not dissimilar situation is to be found in the local au-



thority Venice's mayor, Massimo Cacciari, also heads a broad alliance of the centre and left: some of his councilors favour the Moses project; others are against it. The Greens' leader on the city council, Alessandra Cec-



chetto, said: "We don't want the lagoon to become a closed basin." But Paolo Costa of the former Christian Democrats warned that Venice was in danger of "self-destruction by indecision".

What no one can dispute is

### Sea defences

1 Normal conditions — tide within 1m of its usual level: barrier remains on sea bed

2 If the tide is over 1m higher than usual then the barrier is raised: compressed air pumps out the water and the barrier 'floats' up



that the problem is getting inexorably worse. Last year St Mark's Square was flooded 79 times. It was the second-worst year since records began. The worst year of all was 1996, when the piazza was awash for 101 days.

## Nato shuns limits to its reach

Martin Walker in Brussels

**N**ATO is planning to write itself a blank cheque by refusing to limit or define its future areas of operations in the new strategic doctrine to be discussed by alliance foreign ministers today.

The old cold war alliance confined its reach to Europe. Nato's new formula will refer in the broadest terms to "security in and for the entire transatlantic area". Taking account of Nato partnerships with former Soviet states, this will extend the alliance's sphere of influence to the oil-rich Caspian basin and central Asia.

The foreign ministers are also expected to approve a United States plan to establish a new and special unit at Nato's Brussels HQ to co-ordinate intelligence, scientific skills and "a rapid reaction capability" to handle emergencies triggered by weapons of mass destruction.

Citing the need for the alliance to prepare for such emergencies — from a subway gas attack to a nuclear proliferation crisis, a senior Nato official said yesterday that the decision not to limit Nato's reach was deliberate. "Nato is an alliance that operates by consensus, so there is no need to rule things in or out. We will let the consensus of the alliance members regulate our reach."

The alliance, which is adding Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic to its ranks, plans to approve its strategic doctrine at its summit in Washington in April, the 50th anniversary of its foundation.

Designed to carry Nato into the 21st century as the overarching security system for Europe and North America, the new doctrine would create a new world order run by Nato as the most powerful military force on the planet.

Today's meeting will also bring a determined call by Washington to its European allies to strengthen their military capabilities.

"We want a Europe with modern, flexible military forces that are capable of putting out fires in Europe's backyard," the US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, said yesterday when she welcomed the British initiative for a stronger European force in Nato.

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السنة 1410

# Nato shuns limits to its reach

## 'French Andy Warhol' dies

**C**ESAR Baldaccini, (right) the son of immigrants who became one of France's leading sculptors, has died of cancer aged 77.

He was best known for moulding such everyday objects and rubbish as jeans, wrecked cars and food containers — even fake Cartier watches — into prized art.

César, as he was known, was also famous for making and giving his name to the golden statues awarded in French cinema's equivalent of the Oscars, and for his "Thumb" sculpture — a reproduction of his own thumb and finger prints.

Born in Marseilles, César went to art school and began using rubbish for material because he could not afford clay.

A member of the New Realism school, he was criticised by the arts establishment. But one critic, Ann Cremin, said yesterday: "He was the French Andy Warhol."

PARIS, AP

PHOTOGRAPH BY PASCAL GUYOT



## Yeltsin leaves clinic to sack adviser

Tom Whitehouse in Moscow

**P**RESIDENT Boris Yeltsin began desperate preparations for a possible return to the Kremlin yesterday. His most loyal ally, the Kremlin chief of staff, Vladimir Yumashev, was sacked to make way for the presidential candidate he apparently thinks most able to protect him from future legal inquiries: Yuri Luzhkov, the mayor of Moscow.

Popping out of hospital for three hours, Mr Yeltsin went to the Kremlin to sack Mr Yumashev, before returning to continue his convalescence from pneumonia.

Regarded as "the son Yeltsin never had", Mr Yumashev, a 40-year-old former tabloid journalist, has stood by the president since his wilderness years in the late 1980s. After helping him to write his memoirs, he became a virtual member of the first family.

He and Mr Yeltsin's daughter, Tatiana, have been the president's closest advisers and main conduits with the outside world during his long and frequent bouts of illness.

But since making a show of support for Mr Luzhkov's rivals — the former prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the influential tycoon Boris Berezovsky — during the August political crisis, Mr Yumashev's political fortunes have been in rapid decline. Both Mr Chernomyrdin and Mr Berezovsky were badly damaged by the economic and political fallout from the ruble's collapse. Mr Luzhkov suffered less, and is now in a much stronger position to succeed Mr Yeltsin.

Mr Yumashev has been replaced by the secretary of the Presidential Security Council, Nikolai Bordyuzha. Three of his deputies were also sacked.

Speaking in Bonn yesterday, Mr Luzhkov welcomed the changes in the Kremlin administration, saying they "would weaken the position of individual oligarchs".

With his political career in tatters, Mr Yeltsin needs to make a deal with a successor. Two other presidential candidates, the governor of Krasnoyarsk, Alexander Lebed, and the Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, are more likely than Mr Luzhkov to launch a successful investigation into Mr Yeltsin's murky business affairs.

## Poland to return German art treasure

Ian Traynor in Berlin

**T**HE Polish president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, offered yesterday to return a priceless collection of manuscripts — including original works by Beethoven, Bach, Mozart, and Martin Luther — to Germany, a gesture that may help to close the book on a bitter row which has raged since the end of the second world war.

The offer was welcomed by Bonn, which plans to negotiate a deal in the next few months, suggesting that a breakthrough is imminent in one of the most important controversies stemming from the Nazis' plunder of European art galleries.

The "Berlin Library" of German manuscripts was taken into occupied Poland for safekeeping by the Nazis in 1941, and appropriated by the Poles in 1946.

The collection is reckoned to include a quarter of Mozart's original manuscripts, part of

Beethoven's Eighth Symphony, the originals of works by Johann Sebastian Bach, and manuscripts by the poets Goethe and Schiller.

Mr Kwasniewski, spurred by last week's Washington conference on the restitution of art and property looted during the war, said it was time the collection was returned to its rightful owner.

But he stressed that Poland had not stolen the collection. After their invasion of Poland in 1939, the Nazis, fearing that

the collection would be damaged by the Allied bombing of Berlin, transported it in more than 500 crates to Silesia.

It fell into Polish possession at the end of the war and was taken to Cracow. Communist Poland denied having the art works until the 1970s and later presented fragments to its Warsaw Pact ally East Germany.

"This is a very sensitive and difficult topic," Mr Kwasniewski told a Berlin newspaper. "What I am saying will

trigger sharp criticism and controversy."

The step is certain to spark resistance in Poland, the main site of the Holocaust. Bitterness over the war is still embedded in the national psyche.

Mr Kwasniewski, while saying that all wartime loot should be returned to its original owners, also insisted that Germany should take the first step towards resolving the long-festering row. He said Bonn should ensure that Polish art works were returned to

Warsaw, and that the two countries should mark the millennium by settling the row.

The 20,000 musical manuscripts also include works by Robert Schumann, while the literary works extend to some 212,000 manuscripts, including many from medieval times.

The Berlin-based Prussian Cultural Property Foundation, the state body responsible for Germany's galleries and museums, has long

demanded the collection's return. It said no price could be put on the collection culturally or scientifically.

"In scale and importance it is a unique treasure of artistic deposits which are part of Germany's cultural inheritance and part of Germany's cultural identity," a German government spokeswoman said. "The government hopes that an agreed, pragmatic and exemplary settlement can be found which respects the property rights."



Actor Ralph Fiennes with the Jesus puppet he provides the voice for in a feature based on the New Testament

## Welsh money reanimates Russian film makers

James Meek in Moscow

**A**N UNLIKELY combination of Shakespeare and financial backing from Cardiff have been the salvation of Russia's once-proud state-funded animation empire. The Welsh television channel S4C is helping Christmas films survive through the financial trauma caused by the collapse of the ruble.

Yelzaveta Babakina, who has won a wealth of awards, including a string of Emmys, shows a touch of amused Great Russian chauvinism when she speaks of S4C. "Hardly anyone speaks Welsh, nobody understands them, but they get such support from the government. I think it's great."

Ms Babakina, then head of the collapsing Soviet animation giant Soyuzdetfilm, had just set up Christmas

films — on December 25, 1999, when she was asked by S4C's Chris Grace to make a series of short animated films based on Shakespeare's plays.

Mr Grace said: "We couldn't have afforded to do it in Britain, and we wanted to do it with people who were uncontaminated by Disney."

The 12 Shakespeare films have been a great success: shown in 80 countries in 50 languages.

The USSR built up and subsidised a huge animation industry, partly to provide entertainment and partly to challenge the dominance of Disney. It produced exquisite fairytales and much genuinely poetic entertainment, but Ms Babakina says Soviet animators started to lose their way, spending years on films.

"They looked beautiful,

yes, but under full-blown perestroika, without subsidies, they were unrealistic."

The Shakespeare series, large parts of a version of the Canterbury Tales to be shown on BBC2 during the festive season, and a clutch of other films were shot using stop-motion puppetry in Moscow, while pre- and post-production were carried out in Britain.

A similar approach was used for S4C's Christmas Films' first feature-length animation, In My Father's House, a New Testament story using the voices of Miranda Richardson, Julie Christie and, as Jesus, Ralph Fiennes.

"He wasn't sure about it," said Ms Babakina. "But when we introduced him to the puppet Jesus and

showed him a few trial sequences he said yes."

Grace, who pays for the Moscow end of projects in now devalued rubles, admitted that cost was a factor in using the Russians.

A typical half-hour animation, which adds up to about 16 months' work, for Christmas Films, costs about £250,000: a third of the cost in Britain.

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### News in brief

#### Centrists win in Nigeria

**N**IGERIA'S centrist Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) won a huge lead over its rivals in local elections at the weekend and emerged as the dominant force in the military's plan to restore civilian rule.

The Commonwealth, which suspended Nigeria in 1996 for abusing human rights and failing to restore democracy, said it was satisfied with the conduct of the vote.

The first three parties qualify automatically for parliamentary and presidential ballots to be held before the military ruler General Abdulsalam Abubakar steps down next May. — Reuters, Abuja.

#### Black Sea fleet cut off

**A** UKRAINIAN telephone company has shut off lines to Russia's Black Sea fleet in the Crimean port of Sevastopol because the fleet hasn't paid its bills. Fleet officials said yesterday.

According to the state-owned Ukrtelecom company, the fleet owed more than \$28,000. — Reuters, Sevastopol.

#### 10 die in fire at home

**A**N EARLY morning fire ripped through a Paris retirement home yesterday, just after it failed a safety inspection. Officials said that 10 people were killed and 25 injured, about a dozen seriously.

The head of the rescue service in the suburb of Livry-Gargan, Jean-Luc Chivot, said facilities that would have helped rescue workers in a disaster had been found wanting in the inspection. — AP, Paris.

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# Comment

## Diary

Matthew Norman

**D**ISTURBING news reaches us of Richard Dawkins, the bashful Oxford Professor for the Public Understanding of Science famed for insisting that cold science leaves no room in the rational mind for religious or other paranormal beliefs. So I am intrigued to learn of a poster in Blackwell's bookshop in Bristol featuring the names of 15 authors who took part in its literary festival. Of these, 14 (Sebastian Faulks and David Attenborough among them) have signed next to their names, but one has not. A visitor who asked after this absence was told the Professor refused to sign because the name of Uri Geller — who went to Blackwell's to plug Jonathan Margolis's fascinating biography *Magician Or Mystic?* (Orion, £18.99) — was on the poster. The manager laughed appreciatively. "I'm not joking," said Dawkins sharply. "I will not sign on the same piece of paper." Such superstition is endearing, but it must be a grievous burden for a scientist to carry if he cares to write in (using his lucky rabbit foot's pen, of course), we will supply Professor Dawkins with the names of hypnotherapists who may be able to help.

**I**NTERNECINE strife breaks out at the *Mirror* after Victor Lewis-Smith revealed how fellow columnist James Whitaker — the royal reporter Princess Diana knew as "the fat, slimy Spanish onion" — drinks urine in preference to vintage champagne, even holding a glass in his own byline picture. Replying in his own column, James has much to say on the subject, much of it apparently aggressive, but none of it, alas, vaguely comprehensible. Normally one would advise him to take more water with it, but in this case there seems little point.

**I**N Cheshire, a certain Sergeant Wrigley stakes his claim to December's PC Brains. After being sent to a house in Runcorn to investigate complaints about a nasty smell, the Sarge found no one in, reports Police magazine, and forced entry. Quickly identifying the source as the dog lying stationary on the living room floor, and recognising the case of neglect, he called the RSPCA, and waited for two hours until an inspector arrived. The latter's examination was brief, ending after several seconds when he located a metal zip, running the length of the dog's abdomen, which had been inserted years earlier when the pet had been stuffed.

**C**ONFUSION foils attempts by the Chancellor to counter the latest attack on the recovery in one career to build a new one. In the House of Lords' list of its principal officers and officials, sandwiched between banqueting manager Miss L. McWilliam, MBE, and Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod General Sir Edward Jones, KCB, CBE, is a more succinct and eye-catching entry. "Chef," it reads, "M. Thatcher". Great to see the old girl keeping busy. Let's hope there's someone around to keep an eye on her whenever she feels obliged to nip down to the cellar.

**M**EANWHILE, on the Thai island of Phuket, another chef is in trouble. Kim Lee Chong was arrested after being caught semi-naked while attempting to have sex with a five-ton elephant. In his defence, Mr Chong explained that he believed the animal to be the reincarnation of his wife Wei, who died in 1970. "I recognised her immediately," he told the court, "by the naughty glint in her eye." The court was unconvinced, and Mr Chong received 15 years.



## Sorry, but I think dying people are more important than dumb animals

Polly Toynbee



**B**ARRY Horne lies dying in hospital after 32 days on hunger strike, demanding a royal commission on animal experimentation. The Animal Rights Militia says that if he dies they'll kill 10 scientists who use animals in their research. Horne says he is dying "for every animal in every torture lab".

Andrew Blake is unimpressed, not to say disgusted: "The man is 47, he's a convict with an 18-year sentence, what's he got to lose? He reckons he'll go out in a blaze of glory. Let him. Who's going to shed any tears for him?"

Andrew Blake is 35 and is also a condemned man. He is crippled by Friedreich's ataxia, a progressive wasting disease, and has no idea how long he may live. "I've been to plenty of funerals of people younger than me." He works hard at countering the animal rights movement, sending out newsletters via his voice-activated computer representing the Seriously Ill for Medical Research movement, which now has 500 members with fatal illnesses. "Horne chooses to die. That's his business. We can't choose," Blake says. Research on his disease is carried out on mice at the London teaching hospital he attends as a patient. The main hope of a cure for this and other diseases rests on genetic mouse research. There is no other way. Blake has also had death threats from the animal campaigners, reading: "You are a target, you have been warned."

Barry Horne says he is dying to save all laboratory animals. It's a curiously selective cause. Why choose to save them first, before, say, all animals bred to be eaten for our mere gastronomic selection? Maybe because only 7

per cent of the population is vegetarian, so an out-and-out vegetarian war wouldn't catch the public imagination. It's easier to inflame hatred against an image of cruel scientific torturers conducting sadistic and pointless experiments, with a few lurid photos to help. Profoundly misleading propaganda claiming that animal experiments are unnecessary — it can all be done by growing things in Petri dishes — suggests animals are wantonly carved up for fun.

In fact animal experimentation is the most expensive method, only used when nothing else will do: only 5 per cent of medical research uses animals. The 1986 Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act has had 20 different codes of practice and guidelines attached to it. Enforcing the regulations has cost universities and research establishments nearly £1 billion which could have been spent on the research itself. The bureaucracy is monumental: it takes months to get a permit and the Home Office requires a monthly report. All projects need three separate licences, with trained licenced keepers, a vet on call and every scientist taking compulsory training and an exam.

It seems perverse of these animal rights activists to pick first on science, the most morally justifiable reason for the destruction of animals. After all, if Horne and the ARM were really worried about the fate of rats and mice, they'd be in the animal houses in laboratories, not like the massacre going on every day in the sewers where, thankfully, some eight million of the innocent creatures are slaughtered annually. Where are the animal rights protesters fire-bombing

vermin control operatives? How much public sympathy would there be for a campaign to let rats run wild?

But it is not the number of animals killed that matters to them, nor even the nature of their death — warfarin is a humane way to die, while animals in experiments are anaesthetised. No, what matters is the ideology behind the animals' death. To kill animals in laboratories in pursuit of saving humans is to make a deliberate calculation that elevates humans above animals. It is the apothecary of what they call "speciesism". If a mouse can't die to save a child with cystic fibrosis, they've won their argument. That's the cause Horne is dying for.

As a letter-writer pointed

If a mouse can't die to save a child, they've won their argument

out in these pages yesterday, there is a wide spectrum of animal activists. There are mad people with bombs who want to cull the human population by billions in order to let animals everywhere roam the world free. There are sensible animal campaigners who simply want animals to be treated more kindly, farmed less cruelly and, where used in experiments, scrupulously cared for. The second group tend not to use the language of "rights" but of welfare: humans do have dominion over the birds and the beasts, but with that dominion comes responsibility to treat them well. The talk of "rights" is barny because an-

imals could never have the concomitant responsibilities, (though in the Middle Ages animals were sometimes put on trial).

The extremists tend to make the running: violence is always news, alas. So if Horne dies, he will merit attention never given to the other 50 prisoners who kill themselves in jail every year. Martyrdom stirs deep chords. Consider those rows of saints in renaissance paintings, each clasping a martyr's palm and their own individual instrument of torture — flaying knife, grill, hatchet, Catherine wheel, stigmata, whatever. They stare out of the canvas, challenging true believers — would you die for the cause?

In this causeless era, maybe some like Horne who has found something to believe in so passionately. Most of us have no religion, no socialism, none of the dogmas and isms that have filled mankind's imagination since the beginning of time. Can we live without it? Yes, of course we can, at last free for the first time from primitive convictions about human permissibility on earth or in heaven. The utter dotiness of animal rights extremism is a final absurdist ism to remind us that these great, violent passions are dangerous and crazy. The murderous causes of the 20th century are here repeated as farce. Animal rights ideas are millennial decadence — a little *fin de siècle* joke that mimics this terrible century, like an organ grinder's monkey capering after his master. But maybe we should just stick with Andrew Blake's acid comment that an 18-year prison sentence makes martyrdom for Horne a rather more enticing option than for most of us.

They imagine Britain to be a less intrusive society than their own.

## Celebrities move in

Ekow Eshun



**I**N THE video for her recent single *Substitute For Love*, Madonna is seen trying to flee the attention of a swarming mass of paparazzi. She ducks into a limousine as flash bulbs explode in her face. The car speeds off into the night with the pack giving chase. In its interior, the star looks harried and isolated.

With its theme of relentless pursuit and disrupted privacy, many have taken this video as a comparison by Madonna between her life and that of the only other woman on earth who, while alive, eclipsed her in fame — Diana. As the subject of unceasing press attention in her own right, the singer refutes such suggestions and indeed, irrespective of the actual subject of the video, the predicament it describes is, or was, salient to both: how do you find privacy when your face is the public property of millions?

This, arguably, is why American stars like Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, Leonardo DiCaprio, Michael Jackson and Madonna herself have either moved to, or are in the act of buying homes in Britain. Here perhaps they imagine is a less intrusive society than their own, with less of the pitiless fascination with celebrity characteristics of modern America. Europe has always exerted a fascination on America's artistic community. In the past, the likes of Eliot, Hemingway, James and Baldwin crossed the Atlantic in search of a level of cultural tolerance and creative freedom that eluded them at home. Now movie stars and singers rather than writers are coming here, and for reasons other than artistic openness. It is no accident that, where a free-thinking Paris was once visiting America's chosen destination, today's celebrities now make straight for London.

Earlier this year Cruise and Kidman, who already own a house near Richmond Park, paid £850,000 for a penthouse in 19th century Stanmore Hall, on the fringes of the capital. This is the same mansion within which DiCaprio already owns a £900,000 flat. Madonna is currently seeking a London property in preference to raising her daughter Lourdes in the volatile atmosphere of America's major cities.

Back home, Madonna is mocked as a shameless Anglophile whose accent has somehow strayed from its origins in urban Michigan to a facsimile of the clipped tones of England's upper classes. For the perpetual aspirant who has fought her way from blue collar

origins to global fame via a series of acutely considered image changes, what a goal it might be to trade fame for tradition, and fortune for the kind of class money can't buy! She has made inquiries about a place at Cheltenham Ladies College for Lourdes. Equally, Michael Jackson is reportedly contemplating putting his 21-month-old son Prince down for Stowe.

As much as class though, America's stars may well be coming here in search of credibility. However hyperbolic the concept of Cool Britannia has become, this country is enjoying a unique period of creativity. And unlike their predecessors in the Sixties who made reputations here then sought riches in America, many of today's stars, like Ewan McGregor, Damien Hirst and Noel Gallagher, have stayed here. The effect has been to draw foreign celebrities to Britain.

When Cruise and Kidman signed on to British-based Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut* they could not have predicted the notoriously perfectionist director would involve them in a two-year shoot. But the effects of their extended stay here are visible. It is as though they have cast off some of the excessive caution that characterises most Hollywood stars. Kidman's performance in the West End play *The Blue Room* surprised and delighted audiences with its daring. Still tied to the Kubrick project, Cruise has done little in public save refine his image. Apparently eager to shake off epithets habitually

Madonna is mocked as a shameless Anglophile

applied to him like "boyish" and "wholesome" he now appears in public wearing fashion labels like Prada and Jil Sander that currently mark the epitome of European sartorial sophistication.

For the recording of her current album, *Ray of Light*, Madonna hired British dance music producer William Orbit. It is her most commercially successful collection of songs in some years, and with Orbit's help, *Ray of Light* is also an eminently hip record that references ambient and techno music to suggest that, even at 40, Madonna remains at the cutting edge. Certainly this is the verdict at the recent MTV Video Awards, where the album won several prizes. For major stars who must seek to reaffirm a bond with their audience with each new film or record, such a perception is invaluable. Credibility is a self-fulfilling prophecy, announcing to fans that a star is still relevant and important and ensuring that they remain so as a consequence. Image is everything. Even for America's biggest stars, that's something worth travelling for.

Ekow Eshun is editor of *Arena*

Here is New Labour's Third Way in action — taking a great institution into the age of faxes and e-mail, but still in the public sector

## Post haste

Peter Mandelson

**P**HONES and now faxes are familiar to us all. Courier services, e-mail and the Internet are the media of modern communications. Already 80 per cent of all postal mail starts in an electronic format, generated on computer screens. Without action, the Post Office faces missing out on all these developments and becoming locked into a high volume but low mark-up sector of the market: a commercial ghetto which will lead inevitably to poorer performance, poorer value for money and poorer service.

Our new proposals for the Post Office will take its existing success story forward into the future; a new model of public enterprise, which will keep the Government and the Post Office at arm's length from each other, a new tough independent regulator who will set prices and protect

customers' interests, a new financial structure which will increase the resources the Post Office can access for new investment to increase automation, boost productivity and grow their business, a new strategic framework which will allow the Post Office to plan over a five-year period, a new pricing regime which will liberalise the market and offer discounts to business and a new pay system which will allow good performance to be rewarded and poor employee relations to be improved.

This will lift the uncertainty which has clouded the Post Office for half a decade, as the Conservatives dithered and disagreed about its future. As postal services from Germany, Holland, Denmark, Sweden and others increase their operations in Britain, it will provide the right framework for the Post Office to compete. But at the same time we

will maintain the core public service obligations of universal service, uniform public tariff and a national postal network which are the backbone of the postal service in Britain and a central reason why it is held in such high regard by people across the country.

The Tories wanted to priva-

I do not rule out the option of share sales in the longer term

tise the Post Office, regardless of the operational consequences — but even that desire was thwarted by their own divisions and ineptitude, and by clear national feeling against it.

At the same time, some on the left try to insist that nothing about the Post Office must be changed, and that old-style nationalised industries, buttressed against the market, are the only structure it is either possible or politically correct to approve.

New Labour rejects that. What we have established for the Post Office is the "Third Way" in action: neither right privatisation, nor old-style Morrisonian nationalisation. The key issue for the Post Office is not ownership, but operation; not privatisation, but performance.

That's why charges that we have given in to the postal unions or are just giving the Post Office what it wants, fall so wide of the mark. Like business and unions everywhere with this Government, the postal business and the postal unions are being and will be treated with fairness, not favours.

Privatisation was not on the agenda for this review. We certainly did consider the

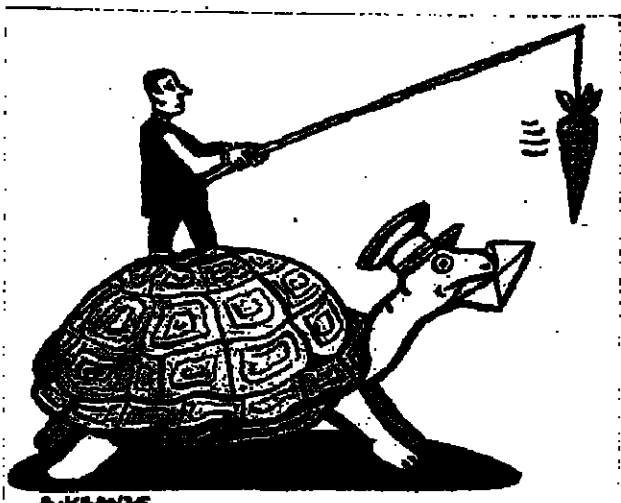
option of a share sale, but the priority was to give the Post Office greater commercial freedom urgently, so it can compete successfully in an environment which is changing rapidly. To have an-

nounced that we would sell off part of the Post Office in three years' time — the minimum period to allow for the legislation necessary — would have done the Post Office no good at all in meet-

ing the challenges it is facing now, every minute of every day. In a tough, demanding marketplace. But let me be plain: I do not rule out the option of share sales in the longer term, if that is the best way forward for the Post Office and for the country.

The real challenge now is for the Post Office — its management and its employees — to make what they now have work. From top to bottom, the Post Office wanted a decision about its future. They looked to government to provide one. But they looked to the Tories in vain. Now they have it: a template for the 21st century, which in its balance of measures will rightly retain the Post Office in the public sector, but give it the greater commercial freedom its changing circumstances call for. New Labour in government has cleared the way.

Peter Mandelson is Secretary of State for Trade and Industry





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## Freedom for the PO...

Until you read the details

YESTERDAY'S statement on the Post Office will give it many of the commercial freedoms it craves, without solving the historic tension between the Treasury and public enterprises over long-term financing. Peter Mandelson, Secretary for Industry, told a thinly attended Commons yesterday that he was creating a new form of public enterprise, neither old-style nationalisation nor privatisation, but a new Third Way model. In many ways he has succeeded. The PO will get new commercial freedoms to expand at home and abroad to meet the challenge of globalisation which has already led the Dutch post office to buy TNT, the parcels distributor, and the German equivalent to buy 25 per cent of DHL. The PO will also receive about £185 million more in annual cash flow as a result of the Treasury being forced to stop its annual mugging of the organisation. In future the ludicrously high dividend it has been extracting will be reduced from 30 per cent of net profit to a more normal 40 per cent.

In exchange, however, the PO will be subjected to a fierce regulatory regime of the kind that has shaken up privatised utilities (good) and its monopoly on letter delivery is likely to be reduced from letters costing below £1 to only 50p. This will certainly open the PO to more competition from the private sector, quite possibly lethally so. This is because lots of letters, particularly business ones, already cost 50p. This could lead to "cherry picking" the

network, whereby firms offer to deliver all a company's letters more quickly in concentrated areas for an average of 50p. This would undermine Rowland Hill's pioneering network under which all mail local or national is delivered for the same price.

The Government has rejected partial privatisation (at least for the moment) but will give the PO more freedom to borrow. The catch — a huge one — is that its loans will still count as part of government borrowing in the national accounts. This means that investment will be geared to the credit rating of the Treasury rather than the risks involved. The (nationalised) Danish post office borrows against its assets and its loans are not guaranteed by the state. Even if the (British) PO is able to borrow large sums from private sources, there won't be much point because government borrowing will be cheaper and — critically — it will still count against the borrowing requirement whatever the source. If the PO wants to spend large sums — say £100 million to £200 million — it will have to get Treasury clearance first. If it wants to make a £2 billion takeover, the Treasury bean counters will have apoplexy. Ministers promise that approval will be a fast, unburdened process. Maybe it will. But any investment will increase government borrowing and what evidence is there that the Treasury with its record of hitting public investment on the head under successive governments has changed its spots? It would need not just a culture change but a heart transplant. The PO's freedom to fix its own pay levels is also constrained by its responsibility to follow public guidelines.

The Government is to be commended on its decision to retain the PO as a public enterprise. It has proved itself to be one of the most efficient and profitable organisations of its kind in the world. Most people

are happy with its performance and don't want it to be privatised. It now has the chance to show that privatisation isn't the only way to run an organisation. But the Government should look very seriously at the drawbacks before the white paper is published in the new year. At the moment it looks as though ministers have unleashed a tiger attached to a thick elastic band. If it runs too fast it will find itself back where it started before you can say Peter Mandelson.

## Bill's nausea

Clinton's in trouble again

FOLLOWING the rollercoaster ride that is the career of William Jefferson Clinton is not for the faint-hearted: you're liable to suffer from extreme nausea, as you track the sudden ups and dramatic downs that tend to come within days of each other. This week Americans are enduring another bout of queasiness. Just weeks after they saw the president wriggle off the book of possible impeachment, they have watched him clamber back on to it. Despite the vote of confidence Americans cast at the mid-term ballot box last month — a result which was meant to drag Mr Clinton out of the woods — he is in trouble again, facing a vote by the House judiciary committee which this week could move articles of impeachment against the White House for the first time since Watergate. His lawyers have just 90 hours today and tomorrow to present their defence, and the current wisdom says opinion on the Republican-dominated committee is hardening against the president.

How did this happen? First fault must lie with Bill Clinton himself. He antagonised Republicans with the legalistic, blame-dodging tone of the written answers he delivered

to the 81 questions he was set by the judiciary committee. The moderate Republican congressman Christopher Shays, who has consistently argued against impeachment, said on Sunday that Mr Clinton had simply "stiffed" the house with his "outrageous" answers. "I mean, he still doesn't get it," he said. "He still doesn't tell the truth." Not for the first time the president was guilty of arrogance, prematurely believing his troubles were over. This is a perennial Clinton fault: he always makes mistakes when he is winning, falling prey to complacency. Of course he should have kept up the contrite tone that helped bring about November's result, waiting until the impeachment threat was dead and buried. Instead he got cocky.

But more blame rests with the Republicans. Now that the election is out of the way, they are thinking less of the US national interest than of their core party base, the right-wing faithful who would never forgive a house failure to impeach such a sinful president. In pandering to their hardliners, Republicans are losing sight of what is surely the most reasonable course of action: to accept that the president did wrong and should formally be rebuked for it — but that the offences he committed fall short of impeachment. That logic informed voters last month, and it should govern their representatives this week.

## A futile death

It's no way to persuade

THERE IS a point of no return in self-starvation, the peculiar form of suicide chosen by Barry Horne, and the animal activist may already have crossed it. Yet death would be futile — even in terms of his

own movement's calculus of animal lives and suffering. In recent years public opinion has moved. There's less and less tolerance of animal suffering that does not have as its purpose bettering the human condition. That has been a civilising process, but it could be stopped or even reversed if animal politics started to be seen as a stamping ground for authoritarians and fundamentalists — and blackmailers. Mr Horne's action has already prompted threats of violence against laboratories and scientists, including — again — Colin Blakemore, whose offence appears as much to be willingness to argue a case on the basis of reason and evidence as his research itself.

It's said that if Mr Horne were to die, he would be the first martyr to Labour's failure to carry out manifesto commitments (a principle which would have ravaged Labour's left-wing over recent years). The party however made no formal commitment in its notes for candidates a royal commission into animal experimentation was mentioned in the "longer term". Such an inquiry might, it's true, marshal evidence, but its absence gives Mr Horne no justification — especially when the Home Office already takes advice from an independent committee. Besides, Labour has given a token of its good intentions by banning the use of animals in research on the components of cosmetics.

Mr Horne is in jail for a serious offence. If the firebombs he planted in Bristol two years ago had gone off, human lives could have been lost. He is entitled to continue his lobbying campaign from behind bars. But the public retains a strong sense of proportion. To harm human beings for the sake of alleviating animal suffering — as exclusively interpreted by fringe groups unwilling to engage in the politics of persuasion — is rightly regarded as extreme.

## Letters to the Editor

### Ups and downs of advertising

I AM surprised the deputy director-general of the Advertising Association thinks that there has been "no advertising at all" of yo-yos (Letters, December 7). My daughter (age 9) informs me that adverts have appeared on TV for Pro-Yo II, Turbo B, Pro-Yo III, Pro-Yo III Special Edition and X-Brain. Each of these simple items costs several pounds; a tuppenny-ha-penny one from the corner shop will no longer do. Advertising may not be the Christmas, but it sure takes advantage of it. Hilary Fraser, Reading.

THERE was a typing error in the letter (December 5) from the Southall Train Crash Steering Committee. As printed, it stated that there would be an examination of corporate criminal responsibility for railway safety if the company pleaded guilty. This should have read no such examination. Louise Christy, Christian Fisher solicitors.

DIDN'T realise Phil Deoust was a real person until long after we'd shot the Steve Coogan film, *The Man Who Thought He's It*. So I'm quite enjoying the kerfuffle. But bless you for publishing Charlotte Raven's noble and brave defence of the critic's profession (G2, December 3). Studied with many baying quotes like an over-enthusiastic sixth-former's essay, it was quite the most unintentionally funny piece I've read in weeks. David Tyler, Positive Television.

WHY does pink lefty Stephanie Palmer (Letters, December 5), who has all the literary skills to have letters published in the Guardian, blame her local primary school for not teaching her daughter to read and write by age 10? Tony Bayliss, Wolverhampton.

THANKS to Malcolm Gluck for his coded message in Superplunk (December 5). In the last six weeks, there have been 57 reads reviewed to just seven whites. Surely this indicates it'll be a white Christmas? I'm off to Ladbroke (after I've finished this bottle of red). Steve Hassell, Gayton, Wirral.

## Show of animal passion

I AM a vegan and work in an award-winning vegan restaurant. Being vegan is not about denial as Kevin Toolis implies (in for the kill, December 5). It is about embracing a whole new world of food based on long-established cultures and traditions from around the world. I come across vegans from all walks of life and I have yet to meet anybody displaying any signs of belonging to a "fundamentalist religion", just ordinary, everyday people who, through a concern for the environment, have decided to adopt a certain diet.

Not long ago, testing cosmetics on animals was deemed acceptable; a shift in public opinion changed all this. This is now starting to happen with animal experimentation for medical use. Mr Toolis's life was saved by the results of experimenting on animals. That was in 1971. In 1998 we have credible alternatives such as computer modelling, which although in its infancy, is making strides in replacing animal experimentation. Andres Sotos-Castello, Nottingham.

LET me remind animal rights protesters who accept terrorist violence that while the fanatic Mr Horne has been free to end his self-inflicted injury, fate currently denies the same option to almost a million cancer victims.

### Engineering the way to wealth

SO we now know that "all references to skill should be rejected in the context of modern Britain" (Teachers get more in social studies up, December 1). If that is so, am I alone in wondering what has been the point of spending the last 30 years developing my own skills (in engineering)? Moreover, is there any purpose in continuing to help to develop similar skills in the current generation of engineering students? Dr Roger Stanway, Cheshire.

JUST think. From now on each time Carol Vorderman selects a letter or number, 50p will find its way into her bank balance (Why we all

in this country alone. Many face a premature death, and some are destined to endure far greater agonies than his. Forty years in cancer research convinces me that science will conquer cancer, perhaps sooner than many think. Meanwhile animal sympathisers increase human suffering, in discarding logic, they behave towards their own species with an irrational barbarity of which an untutored savage would be ashamed. Dr Robert Jones, London.

ANTIBIOTICS which have been developed at the cost of thousands of laboratory animals are becoming less effective in treating human diseases. The cause is said to be intensive farming where animals are pumped full of antibiotics to promote growth. There is a call for such abuse to be banned so that antibiotics are limited to the treatment of illnesses in farm animals. The response of the animal feed industry is that such a ban would lead to the loss of thousands of jobs and a disaster for the consumer. Have they learned nothing from BSE? Peter Allen, Worthing, W Sussex.

THE meat and dairy industry is responsible for more than any other factor for the reckless devastation of the

biosphere: a vegetable diet is the only way the world's present population can be sustainably fed. Vivisection, moreover, is no longer needed for the progress of science and medicine. Sensitivity to all suffering is the only secure basis for human rights. David Fernbach, Aubrey Walter, Swaffham, Norfolk.

NICK Palmer MP (Letters, December 7) gives "an obscure technical reason" for "suffering for limited benefit" being so widespread in animal experiments: experiments only need to show that suffering cannot be avoided without invalidating the experiment. True, but the "free" market dictates that it is commercial suicide to share research and between companies. Companies competing for the same market will conduct the same experiments over and over again, needlessly multiplying the suffering. Paul Thatcher, University of Portsmouth.

ANIMAL-rights terrorists recently firebombed the Edinburgh Woolen Mill shop in Cambridge. Having destroyed the fur industry, the obvious next target is wool. But where will it end? How will their industrialised society produce the polyester for their blasé lives? Name and address supplied.

really punishing schedule that would leave the quiz question gasping.

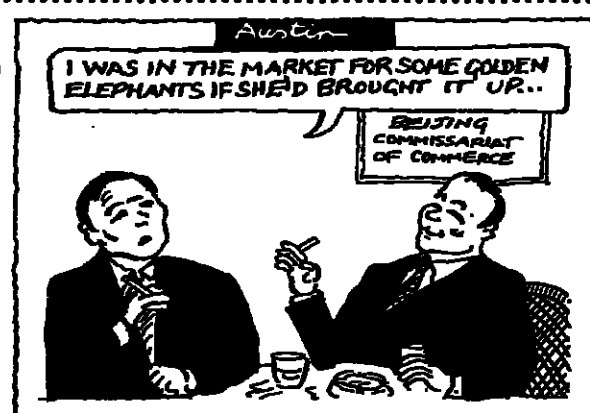
My wife is at school by 8.30am; working solidly throughout the day, either teaching or as year head sorting out the problems of 25 children; meetings after school, home by 5.20pm; evening meal; preparation and marking that can never be done during the day. Finish! 11.30pm at the earliest.

I work as a volunteer for a small overseas charity. Five or six days of Vorderman's money would pay for a whole programme in one of the poorest areas of one of the poorest countries in the world, bringing hope to hundreds of people. Bill Moore, Derbyshire.

responsibility for 20 further students, I am also responsible for the college entry for A-level general studies, currently around 400 candidates. My salary is £20,500.

I have had no pay increase for five years because I refused to sign the new "flexible" contract imposed on colleges by the last government. I correctly surmised that the new deal had nothing to do with flexibility and everything to do with cost-cutting. My colleagues who did sign are now all "teaching" a whole extra A-level class each in exchange for, from this month, about £2,500 extra.

The idea that our morale is likely to be improved when some of us are paid an increase for the same work, while others are not, is ludicrous. There is



### Time faking film-makers came out

FIND it hard to believe that Peter Sissons, after 35 years in television (Unjustifiable conduct, Media, December 7), has remained blissfully unaware of the creation by documentary film-makers of sequences which I have called "legitimate fakes" (Faking it, December 5).

What Sissons and others want us to believe is that, in the good old days when journalistic values were sacrosanct, this sort of thing did not go on. This is nonsense. In the case of the mocked-up sequence of the kestrel catching a sparrow by the Tower of London, the only pressure I felt was to match the production standards of BBC wildlife documentaries such as *Life on Earth*. I hired the same falcon that was used in the *Attenborough* series. For all these years, has Sissons really believed that all sequences in the BBC's wildlife programmes were exactly what they purported to be?

BBC historical documentaries made over the years have also contained countless sequences which I call "legitimate fakes". They also used music in their films, something the innocent Sissons might find slightly worrying. And does Sissons really believe that none of the short news items shown in programmes he has fronted contained sequences where the director has asked someone to "act out" a little sequence for the camera?

Seasoned foreign correspondents tell me of the demand in news programmes for "bang bang" when they are reporting foreign wars. And there is absolutely nothing new about asking the gunners to fire off a few rounds as an accompaniment to your to-camera piece. Ever heard of "the Peter?" The debate about the contemptible Carlton film, *The Connection*, is an important one. But it does not advance our understanding to adopt a judiciously pious approach. It is time a few more film-makers "came out" on the subject of fakery so that there can be an open debate about what is acceptable and what is not. Gavin Weightman, London.

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### On track

YOU rightly point out the potential for major train accidents from vandalism (Vandal threat to trains, December 4) and you refer to the visit made by Frank Davies, chairman of the Health and Safety Commission, to a station in south London. Could I add to your piece by mentioning that the reason for my joining Frank Davies and the media on this visit was to launch a Good Practice Guide to the prevention of trespass and vandalism on the railways.

The problems, and risks, have been pointed out many times before, but the release of this guide represents a major step in encouraging co-ordinated action by railway companies and others to tackling what is, in effect, a range of particularly difficult problems. As the regulator of railway safety in Great Britain, the HSE will continue to drive those with responsibility for public safety in the industry to do whatever they can reasonably do to reverse the rising trends of trespass and vandalism on the railways. V P Coleman, HM Chief Inspector of Railways, Health and Safety Executive.

### Empty thoughts

EDWARD de Bono's claim (Letters, December 5) that his work is vindicated because Siemens uses it is either touchingly naive or disingenuous rubbish. Managers try to justify their own parasitic uselessness with vastly expensive conferences on things such as Actualising the Giant Within to Increase Your Margin. China Mieville, London.

THERE is a paradox in Edward de Bono's claim that Siemens uses it is either touchingly naive or disingenuous rubbish. Managers try to justify their own parasitic uselessness with vastly expensive conferences on things such as Actualising the Giant Within to Increase Your Margin. China Mieville, London.

EDWARD de Bono wonders rudely if "it is just possible that Siemens knows more about my work than the silly idiot who wrote the piece for you?" Looking over the way at the vast, now empty, factory that was Siemens, it is just possible that they don't. Frank Evans, North Shields.

## Some lessons for Mr Blair

LAST week Messrs Blair and Blunkett came to Chiswick Community School to stimulate public interest in the green paper on education (Edin plan for teaching revolution, December 4). Although it was a compliment to the management and teaching teams of this school, we wish to disassociate ourselves from the proposals in the green paper. We are strongly opposed to performance-related pay. Successful teaching depends on team work both within a school and between schools through the sharing of good practice. We consider that any attempt to reward teachers in some schools more generously than in others, or

individual teachers in the same school more than their colleagues, would be extremely divisive. We urge the Government to rethink these retrogressive proposals and to take on board the views of classroom teachers. Carol Macdonald and 29 other staff members, Chiswick Community School.

HAVE been teaching mathematics for 23 years. I am responsible for between 60 and 70 of our A-level mathematics candidates each year, most of whom take further mathematics. Our results are outstanding, consistently placing us in the top 10 in the league tables. In addition to having pastoral

responsibility for 20 further students, I am also responsible for the college entry for A-level general studies, currently around 400 candidates. My salary is £20,500. I have had no pay increase for five years because I refused to sign the new "flexible" contract imposed on colleges by the last government. I correctly surmised that the new deal had nothing to do with flexibility and everything to do with cost-cutting. My colleagues who did sign are now all "teaching" a whole extra A-level class each in exchange for, from this month, about £2,500 extra. The idea that our morale is likely to be improved when some of us are paid an increase for the same work, while others are not, is ludicrous. There is

no alternative to paying all teachers a proper rate — at least £30,000, if the recruitment crisis is to be relieved. Name and address supplied. Having taught in Germany, I found the public perception of teaching there very positive and young people chose the profession because it offered a comparatively prosperous and secure life in which they would enjoy trust and respect. Until a proper position in society is established of the profession in Britain too — not just "jam for the fast-trackers" — young teachers who have reason to believe they have prospects elsewhere will of course get out before it is too late to go. Roger Dean, Bedford, Beds.

'Advertising may not create Christmas but it sure takes advantage of it'  
Hilary Fraser, Letters

## Transsexuals get by with a little help from their friends

YOUR interview with Jackie Kay (Race and all that jazz, December 5) touches on gender dysphoria, the collective and technical term for all those states in which the individual experiences persistent discomfort with the biological gender. The extreme form of this dysphoria is transsexualism, usually a life-long condition and one in which the individual may seek reassignment by medical and surgical means, to the opposite gender. Others, no doubt, simply live out their lives, "disguised" in the gender role in which they feel comfortable. The purpose of this is not necessarily to engage in homosexual intercourse and it is not the same condition as homosexuality.

Essentially, the ingrained stereotype of immutable difference between masculine and feminine behaviour and interests is not upheld and the personality of everyone is composed of a mixture. Your article concludes with the statement: "People who change their identity live in fear of discovery." This, no doubt, is frequently true, but I think it worth bringing attention to the fact that, in many years of clinical involvement with gender dysphoric people, I and my colleagues have frequently been impressed with the degree of understanding shown by relatives, employers and other significant persons in the individual's life, and readiness to seek the best means of coping with the immutable state. R P Smith, Senior lecturer, St James's University Hospital, Leeds.

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Professor Tony Tanner

## Cities of words

**T**ONY TANNER, who has died aged 63, was professor of English and American literature at Cambridge University. He was born in Richmond, Surrey, and after Raynes Park County Grammar School and national service, mostly in Germany, he went up to Jesus College, Cambridge. On graduating he won a Harkness fellowship, which enabled him to spend two years in America, mostly at Stanford University, California. When he returned to Cambridge in 1964 he was elected to a fellowship at King's College and to a lectureship in the faculty of English.

Thereafter, though he was often in the United States, his life was based on Cambridge and King's. He was subsequently promoted to a readership, and then to an *ad hominem* professorship.

Tanner often spoke admiringly of his teacher, A.P. Rossiter, and Philip Brockbank, but his critical career took a quite different and rather less conventional course from theirs. If we except D.H. Lawrence's extraordinary *Studies in Classic American Literature* (1923), Tanner's early book, *The Reign of Wonder* (1965), might be called the most impressive contribution hitherto made by an Englishman to the study of American literature. Treating Emerson, Mark Twain and Henry James, as well as some later writers, it is the first record

of Tanner's long love affair with American writing, and especially with James, all of whose work he knew intimately.

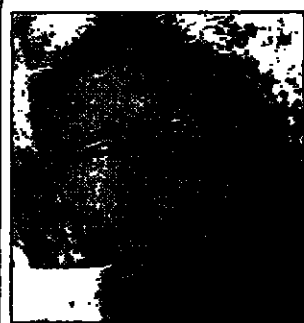
His second American book, *Cities of Words*, which followed in 1971, dealt with very recent American fiction, a topic not at the time much canvassed by English critics. It called for an enormous amount of reading — a challenge he always accepted with enthusiasm — and it met a growing interest in contemporary American fiction, especially among the young. It was so much admired and discussed that one could probably name it as Tanner's most immediately successful book.

His American interest continued. He produced short books on Saul Bellow and Thomas Fynchon, and his collection, *Scenes of Nature: Signs of Men* (1987), dedicated to Henry Nash Smith of Stanford, the admired teacher who first stirred his interest in American literature, was again, and appropriately, devoted to American writers. Later, he published a charming set of lectures on Henry James as a travel writer, critic and autobiographer, *Henry James and the Art of Non-Fiction* (1996).

But although he was, for obvious reasons, the dominant presence in Cambridge teaching of the subject, Tanner did not care to be typed as an Americanist — quite rightly, for his scope was much wider. He won international respect

as a Conrad scholar, and his introductions to the Penguin Jane Austen series were collected in an influential book of 1966.

His most ambitious work, *Adultery in The Novel*, appeared in 1978. A promised second volume was never written, but even in its truncated form this book is an extraordinary and very characteristic achievement. Tanner was a reader of a voracity and



Tanner... voracious reader

originality unparalleled in my experience, even among members of a bookish profession. And having delightedly read everything by his authors, he would go on to treat them with a comparable pleasure in writing.

His method, as he himself describes it in the preface to *Adultery in The Novel*, was to write "blind", that is, without undue, or sometimes any, reference to existing work in the subject: "I wanted to try

having my own say in my own way, and ... to avoid continuous reference (and deference) to other works. Such a procedure obviously has risks". And his exhilarating plunge into three "key novels" — *La Nouvelle Héloïse*, *Die Wahlverwandtschaften*, and *Madame Bovary* — inevitably did involve risks, attracting some criticism from more careful though less adventurous experts. But the book justifies itself by its energetic intelligence. Its manner is that of an inspired lecturer, which indeed Tanner was — thinking on his feet, excitedly cramming into his scheme unforeseen sudden insights. The book is a bold and brilliant critical adventure, itself as "transgressive" as the novels he praises for possessing just that quality.

Much ill health, and an ill-advised and rapidly aborted emigration to the US, may have slowed him down, but *Venice Desired* (1982), a book about the responses to that city of Byron, Ruskin, Henry James, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Proust and Pound, is another demonstration of his critical boldness. Anybody who knew him during his writing will remember with something like awe the passion with which he read, re-read and recited Ruskin, in whom he delighted as much as he did in James. For weeks the SoHo loft operated by John Coltrane's drummer, Rashied Ali, Burrows played

in saxophonist Frank Foster's big band. He was a reader, and his sheer pleasure in great writing was, to his fellow professionals, an anachronistic delight. His final assault on a great author was in a series of introductions to the Everyman Shakespeare. Their exuberant length would have daunted many editors, but they were welcomed by his admiring publisher, David Campbell. In his last days Tanner was pleased to learn that these essays are to be gathered into one presumably very large volume by Macmillan.

A genial figure, making light of his slow and painful progress on two sticks, Tanner was a familiar and much-loved presence in King's, a colleague at once sensitive and hoisterous, affectionate and critical. It was fitting that he should have been able to quit the hospital and end his life in his old rooms. His loyalty to the college was absolute, as long as they behaved as friends ought; anybody deemed to have failed in this respect was likely to be irrevocably exiled.

He was twice married, the second time to Nadia Fusini, the Italian translator of Virginia Woolf and herself a distinguished critic. He had no children.

Frank Kermode  
Tony (Paul Anthony) Tanner, writer and critic, born March 18, 1935; died December 5, 1998

Roy Burrows

## Have trumpet, will travel

**F**OR his 1963 British visit, Duke Ellington once said the tune *Jam With Son* to feature his soloists. When Roy Burrows, who has died of lung cancer aged 72, stepped forward to take his eight bars, the bandleader announced his newest trumpeter's Jamaican nativity, and whipped drummer Sam Woodyard into a cello rhythm. To anyone knowing Burrows' progressive track-record, this seemed a cliché. But Ellington, who had used West Indians in his band in the 1930s, was always aware of the overlooked Caribbean connection in jazz.

Burrows was one of many West Indian musicians to take US citizenship. In 18 months with Ellington he had few solo spots, but that was not unusual in big bands where solo space had to be earned. Drafted in as a temporary replacement for the stratospheric Cat Anderson, he impressed the leader sufficiently that when Anderson returned, the slim and serious Jamaican remained. Sitting alongside veteran Cootie Williams, he played the written parts conscientiously, biding his time.

Born in Kingston, Burrows had been playing trumpet at carnivals since the age of seven. At 16 he went to Panama to work on the prestigious hotel-band circuit, returning to Jamaica to play with drummer Redver Cook. Known as "Bubbles", he worked with tenorman Wilton "Bogey" Gaynair before forming a group with another young saxophonist, Sammy Walker.

In 1946 Burrows moved to the United States, the goal of most progressive Jamaican musicians before the McCarren-Walter Act limited immi-

gration in 1952. Staying with relatives in Harlem, he heard Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and Fats Navarro and espoused their progressive musical ideology. Later he lived with his father in the Bronx, but continued to frequent Harlem's Sugar Hill neighbourhood, where he formed a close relationship with saxophonist Sonny Rollins, playing often with him and the leading trumpeters of the day, Clifford Brown and Kenny Dorham.

Although Coleman Hawkins, James Moody and Max Roach gave him jazz recognition, nightclubs and show-

bands paid the rent. Burrows had already experienced several gruelling package tours of the South, he helped desegregate audiences when playing behind Stevie Wonder, who refused to follow the southern code. In the Apollo, he played for Gladys Knight and James Brown, then spent five years on and off with Aretha Franklin, before joining Count Basie to tour with Tom Jones.

I interviewed Burrows on his first European visit, renewing our acquaintance in 1964 when he returned with Ray

Charles. After six weeks in Ireland filming *Ballad in Blue*, he was eager to join, and at Ronnie Scott's jazz club, then in Gerrard Street, Soho, a memorable session united him and fellow Jamaican, guitarist Ernest Ranglin, with saxophonists Scott and Sonny Stitt.

In New York in the 1970s he was part of a flexible music scene that embraced free jazz developments, bebop progressions and the older disciplines of the swing era. On Monday nights at Ali's Alley, the SoHo loft operated by John Coltrane's drummer, Rashied Ali, Burrows played



On the town... Burrows (left) jamming with Sonny Stitt in London in 1964

Val Wilmer  
Roy Kenneth Burrows, musician, born February 26, 1926; died December 2, 1998

## Birthdays

Kim Basinger, film actress, 45; David Carradine, actor, singer, songwriter, 62; Sir Julian Critchley, writer, broadcaster, 72; Lord (Peter) Leveson, former No 10 efficiency adviser, 57; Jenny Linden, actress, 58; Sinead O'Connor, singer, songwriter, 32; Maximilian Schell, actor, 68; David Verey, banker, 48.

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN A report on page 5, November 17, headed, "Drugs issue", to earn more than Blair's £205,000, we said that Mr Blair's top three political advisers all earned (or would from December 1) more than anyone in the Cabinet. This overlooked the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, who earns £151,002, considerably more than the three advisers we mentioned. They were Keith Hellawell, £105,057; Jonathan Powell and Alastair Campbell, £91,014 each.

IN OUR front page report, Pinocchet challenges Law Lord, December 5, we misspelt the name of the solicitors acting for General Pinochet. We should have said Kingsley Napley. We also got wrong the name of the direc-

tor of consumer affairs for British American Tobacco in the same story. That should have been Michael Friedeaux. Apologies to both.

BROADWAY MELODY did not win Best Picture at the first Academy Awards (The sunset girls, Friday Review, December 4), but at the second ceremony a year after Wings had done so in 1929.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the Readers' Editor on 0171 239 5589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 5897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Bernard Thompson

## The business of comedy

**B**ERNARD THOMPSON, who has died aged 72, was a television comedy producer and the safe pair of hands who took on a number of running BBC series — notably *Last of The Summer Wine* — and turned them into national institutions. With new titles he had less luck, even when they came from the same writers.

The author of *Summer Wine*, Roy Clarke, for example, provided him with two shows which never quite clicked. *Potter*, starring Arthur Lowe on the crest of his *Dad's Army* popularity, drew on the same theme of retirement and the novelty of unlimited leisure. It had its moments but, as one critic said, *Potter* had the whiff of a character run up to fit an actor, rather than one striving for life on his own account.

Rosie, also from Roy Clarke, had a preliminary run under another name and another producer. Again, it was a sound idea, the misadventures of young copper and fatherly sergeant in small-town Yorkshire, and a respectable 27 episodes were made. But if it is remembered today, it is

probably as having paved the way for ITV's immensely popular drama to the same prescription, *Heartbeat*. Of Thompson, Clarke says: "He was a charming man who enjoyed life. One thing that always puzzled me was that he was a beer-drinker, and a very capable one at that, yet he remained tall and willowy." Good-looking and gifted with a fine sense of humour, Thompson actually began as an actor. He and his wife, Avis, were both members of a London theatre company which toured the US and Canada for two years in the 1950s.

ON their return, he joined BBC Television as a floor manager, soon becoming production assistant to a leading light of the comedy department, James Gilbert, remaining far around 15 years. Together they evolved such legendary entertainments as *The Seven Faces of Jim* (Jimmy Edwards), the Peter Cook and Dudley Moore series *Not Only But Also*, and *The Frost Report* with David Frost, John Cleese, Ronnie Barker

and Ronnie Corbett. In the field of situation comedy the list included *Me Mammy*, with Milo O'Shea, *The Likely Lads* and, of course, *Last of The Summer Wine*. When Gilbert was promoted to head of comedy in 1973, Thompson took over the series and also the follow-up to the previous title, *Whatever Happened To The Likely Lads?*

In the 1980s he took on another mega-hit, *Only Fools and Horses*. Other shows he produced included *One Upmanship*, *I Didn't Know You Cared* and TV versions of the annual Cambridge Footlights Revue. On leaving the BBC he produced *The Brothers McGregors* for Granada.

Avis died suddenly in 1979. They had a daughter, Fiona, who brought him a granddaughter, and shortly before Thompson's death gave birth to boy triplets. Since 1980 his partner had been the actress Katharine Schofield, who was with him when he died.

Philip Purser  
Bernard Thompson, television producer, born July 25, 1926; died November 19, 1998

Cleopa... after challenging Romania's communist rulers he lived for nine years in hiding

Archimandrite Cleopa Ilie

## The good shepherd

A

ARCHIMANDRITE Cleopa Ilie, who has died aged 86, was a shepherd and a key religious leader of Romania. He was the spiritual leader of the Sibastria monastery, 200 miles north of Bucharest and not far from the Moldavian Ceahlău, considered to be the Mount Athos of Romania due to the richness of its monastic life. His story illustrates both the continuity of the *hesychast* tradition — based on inner mystical prayer — in the Balkans, and the spiritual resistance of monasticism in communist Romania.

In Eastern Orthodox Christianity, stillness, or *hesychia*, denotes a way of contemplative life whose aim is to attain the union of mind and heart, so that the mental prayer becomes prayer of the heart. At a time when atheistic Marxism was institutionalised in Romania, Father Cleopa became a charismatic teacher of the *Praxis*, a collection of ascetic and mystical writings dating from the fourth to the 14th century, which focused especially on the key concept of the Jesus prayer.

His oral teachings developed St Gregory Palamas's theological distinction between the essence and the energies of God's essence and the divine energies which make possible the knowledge of God and the deification of humanity, following Jesus's call for human perfection. Father Cleopa was born

into a northern Romanian peasant family. He became a monk in 1937 and for 10 years worked as a shepherd for his monastery. Ordained as a *hieromonk* in 1948, he was soon to become the *staretz* — the elder of the monasteries of Sibastria and then Sibastria. From 1956 to 1959 he was spiritual director at Sibastria. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, when the Romanian Orthodox hierarchy was compelled to close hundreds of monasteries and to forbid people under the age of 60 from en-

tering monastic life, Father Cleopa's theology and way of life challenged the totalitarian system. So for nine years he lived in hiding in the Rarau mountains, under the threat of the death penalty. He used to consider the cemetery to be an ideal place, where a human being could reflect on this and the next life. He joyfully accepted the living martyrdom of being a spiritual guide in a country ruled by the tyrant Nicolai Ceausescu, who destroyed dozens of churches and monasteries in Bucharest alone.

When I saw him for the last time, last Easter, Father Cleopa advised me to "live with the fear of God on your right side and with the fear of death on the left". He was the spiritual director of the last three Romanian patriarchs — Justinian, Justin and Teoctist — and after the events of 1989, when Ceausescu was overthrown, a group of hierarchs asked him to become patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, an honour which he declined with humility.

He had nevertheless that holiness which would persuade even Stalinist officials that no ideology can deny God. Charismatic, with a prodigious memory, always able to enforce his message with a quote from scripture or from the church fathers, his sermons and interviews, published after 1990, became a treasure of wit and wisdom.

He had a paradoxical self-enclosed, which brought people to the Church in the name of God. He found wisdom even in obscure manuscripts from old monastic libraries. His spiritual authority was based both on love and on the fear he inspired. He cursed members of the neo-communist mafia in Romania — which then made huge donations to the Church.

Alexander Popescu

Archimandrite Cleopa Ilie, theologian and hermit, born April 10, 1912; died December 2, 1998

## A Country Diary

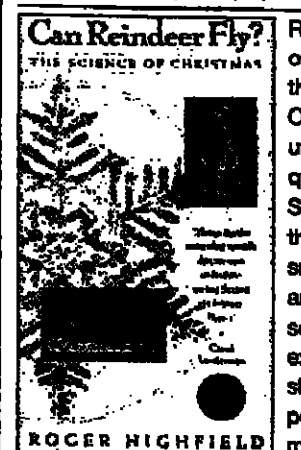
CAMDEN TOWN: Walking along Regent's Canal, on the stretch between Lime Terrace and Camden Lock, the water looked like black grape jelly, quivering and sickly sweet, yet dense and solid. It reminded me of a Stephen King novel. It had a sinister feel to it and was a most unusual sight — the water almost always shows some movement, being ruffled by the slightest breeze. Forging ripples and creating ever-changing patterns. The next day this phenomenon had disappeared. The water looked dark green and brown again and was adorned with

motley-coloured autumn leaves near the lock. The eye, however, focussed mainly on the unbelievable amounts of garbage, ragged and torn furniture and other twopoth paraphernalia that only the tourists who flock into Camden come Saturday morning could have left behind. A large seems to clean up the debris but too infrequently. At this time of year the waterfowl population is reduced to mallards, which bob up and down amidst the

broken styrofoam cups, plastic bottle tops and sandwich wrappers, or hide in the overhanging shrubbery, and a pair of moorhens and their one remaining offspring (originally I counted seven chicks). Later, when it gets colder, you can see tufted and eider ducks, and even a preddo mandarin. In the early morning one of the Regent's Park herons patrols the towpath, keeping an eagle eye on the fish in the murky depths. MARION DULL

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# Analysis Smuggling



Polly Toynbee:  
not for animals  
8



## Contraband Britain

### Duties

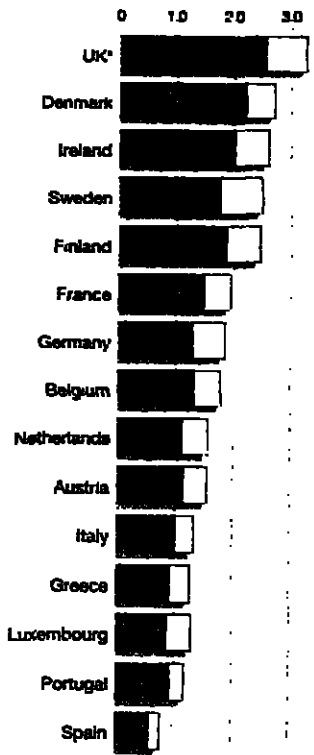
Custom and Excise duties, £ million

	1988-89	1991-92	1994-95	1997-98
Petrol & diesel	8,579	11,003	14,253	19,484
Tobacco	4,247	4,390	7,388	6,388
Spirits	1,576	1,742	1,776	1,848
Beer	2,195	2,385	2,594	2,688
Wine	784	925	1,139	1,383
Cider & perry	88	74	112	137

### Cigarettes

Price of a packet of 20 cigarettes, £, as of October 1998

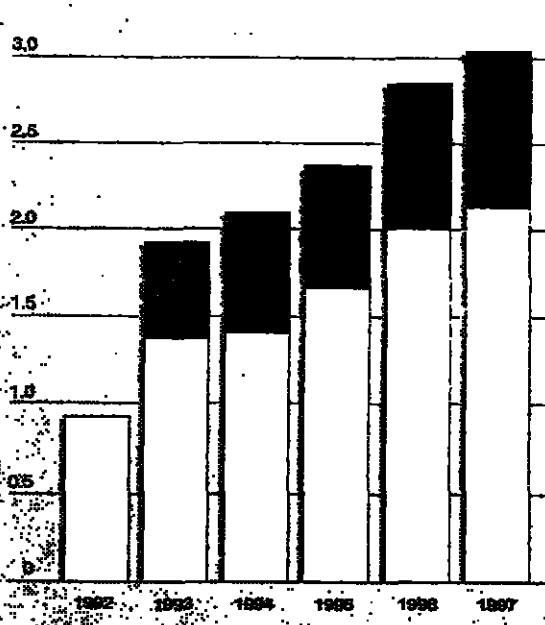
□ Retail price ■ Duty & VAT



### Beer and the white van economy

Duty-paid imports of beer into the UK, millions of hectolitres

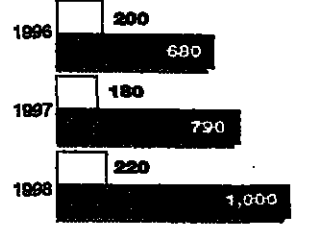
□ Ordinary travellers ■ Vans



### Revenue

Revenue to the Treasury lost from smuggling, £ million (1996 & 1997 figures revised)

□ Total alcohol ■ Total tobacco



## Bootleg is booming

Whenever the moon and stars are set, whenever the wind is high, all night long in the dark and wet a man goes riding by (in a white van). Dan Atkinson wonders what he's got in the back

WELCOME to the county of Kent, once the garden of England and now a crowded theatre of operations for nearly every branch of Britain's booming law-enforcement industry. Down in the Channel ports, just about every third person is either a Customs officer, a policeman, a Benefits Agency investigator or a member of the overloaded van hit-squad. Christmas is coming and this is the front line of Operation Mistletoe, the latest round in a centuries-old cat and mouse game between smugglers and Crown officers.

Besting the Excise man is a time-honoured British pastime as smugglers and their customers have declined to pay duties owed the King or Queen. But by one of those paradoxes which litter the history of economics and diplomacy, the driving force behind the current tidal wave of smuggling against which Operation Mistletoe is battling is a free-trade agreement, the Single European Act of 1986. The Mistletoe officers, with their arrest warrants, their search and seize powers and their confidential informer hotlines, have been confuted into existence by a deal providing for unimpeded movement of goods across the European Union.

This is the other face of the borderless world of free trade and global laissez-faire. In a naïveté competition, it would be a deal between those who thought arrangements such as the European single-market and the trade-liberalisation deal GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) meant governments renouncing their right to tax "luxuries" to the hilt and those who seriously believe Operation Mistletoe will do

anything more than scratch the surface of the roaring cross-Channel black market in drink and tobacco.

In the former camp are members of the free-market Adam Smith Institute, who, taking their cue from the eponymous master himself, believe smuggling to be "the crime that nature never meant to be so" (1). In the latter group is Mr Smith's fellow Scot, Chancellor Gordon Brown, who regards smuggling as primarily an enforcement problem and would be more likely to announce a 100 per cent penal tax on high earners than he would be to slash alcohol and tobacco duties to something approaching French and Belgian levels.

Smuggling is a venerable British tradition, with the combination of a very long coastline and a cultural propensity to regard foreign produce as desirable luxury goods leading up to an on-again-off-again battle of wits between the smugglers and the "preventive men" of the Customs & Excise. Whatever the state has sought to nail down and tax, the smuggler has cheerfully brought in at dead of night, whether cognac in the 18th Century or Swiss watches in the 1950s. Honours were never quite even, but the problem was, at least, contained, with the smuggling culture confined to the hinterlands around ports and airports.

In Thomas Hardy's fictional Wessex village of Netherstock, the twilight Wesleyan minister Mr Stockdale lectures, to his horror, that his landlady (and the love of his life), the widow Lizzy Newberry, is queen-pin of the local smuggling racket, storing "tubs of spirits that have accidentally floated over in the dark from France" (2). Freer trade in the post-war years seemed at one point likely to consign Lizzy Newberry to the history books.

Indeed, there even threatened to be a nostalgia cult surrounding customs posts and frontier crossings. Irish poet Dennis O'Driscoll (himself a taxman by day) mourned the opening of the north-south Irish border: "The redeployed Customs staff, bored, trying to acclimatise themselves to indoor jobs" (3).

THE Single act came into force on January 1 1993, since when British consumers could shop, duty paid, to their heart's content south of the Channel, provided the goods bought were for their own consumption. Given the wide disparities in duty in Britain compared to the Continent — French beer duty, for example, is one-sixth the British level — it did not take a BSc in economics to predict what would happen. Pouring through the yawning gap between British and Continental duties came millions of litres of beer and

wine and hundreds of tonnes of tobacco. Not only was smuggling back from the dead, but suddenly every other smoker or drinker seemed to be imbued with the spirit of Netherstock. To take one example, three quarters of all hand-rolled cigarettes smoked in Britain are imported across the Channel, legitimately and (mostly) illegitimately. Drum, Britain's third-favourite hand-rolling brand, is not officially on sale in this country.

So-called "indicative limits" are in place to guide shoppers as to what is considered a reasonable quantity of dutiable goods for personal consumption: 800 cigarettes, one kilo of tobacco, 400 cigars, 200 cigars, 10 litres of spirits, 20 litres of fortified wine, 90 litres of wine and 120 litres of beer. But with cheap ferry tickets on offer at every port, the dedicated bootlegger could make trip after trip, within the guidelines, and still turn a healthy profit.

And even a legitimate customer can bring back more, provided it can be proved that he intends to consume the products himself. Customs officers have a fund of unlikely excuses offered by suspected bootleggers for the colossal quantities of duty-paid goods with which they have been found. One man explained that the several kilos of tobacco that he himself could not possibly intend to smoke were going to be cooked in a special stew. Another claimed he would be putting large quantities of tobacco in his bath as a cure for lumbago.

Behind the court cases and the dawn raids is the simple fact that bootlegging is ceasing to be a fringe activity and is reaching into the heart of Britain, both geographically (vans laden with black-market goods have been tracked hundreds of miles inland) and socially (a Government figures for cigarette consumption, for example, are no longer reliable, so vast is the

hidden tobacco market. Far from declining by 7 per cent during 1997/98, cigarette sales may actually be increasing (4). At this rate, official data is likely to worsen. Next July, the bootleggers will get another boost, with the abolition of duty-free sales inside the European Union. One-fifth of duty-free sales are thought likely to vanish into the maw of the cross-Channel trade, of which only half is likely to be made up of goods legitimately bought by consumers for their own use.

Even the law-enforcers themselves have not proved immune to the delights of bootlegging. Last month, it emerged that two officers of the Cleveland force — a detective sergeant and detective constable — had made 12 illegal booze runs to Calais in the constabulary's social-club minibuses and sold the drink to colleagues. The two men were fined £2,000 including back-tax by Customs & Excise. The case did not go to court, although both men received a severe warning from the Deputy Chief Constable (5). Doubtless those caught in the Mistletoe net can expect similarly lenient treatment.



For his personal use?

PHOTOGRAPH BY FORESTIER/STYMA

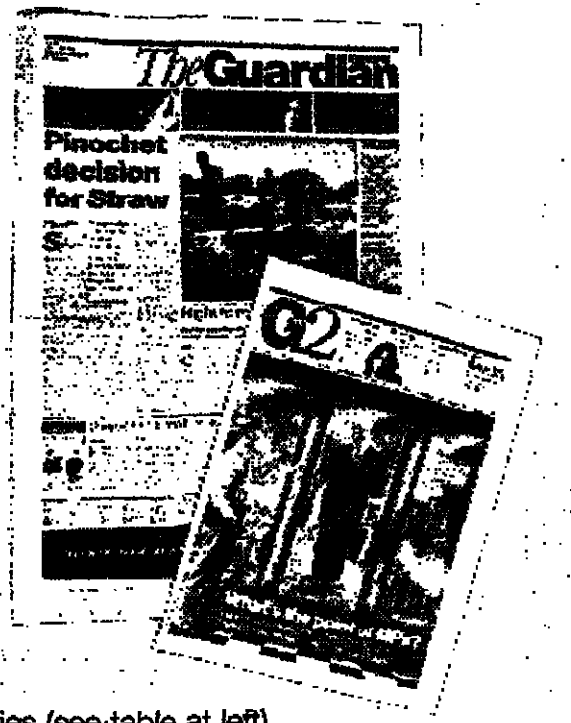
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# FinanceGuardian

## Bug bites Windows 98

Microsoft prosecution case in disarray

Mark Tran in New York

**M**ICROSOFT was yesterday forced to admit that its flagship Windows 98 computer operating system contains a year 2000 bug.

The warning came as one of the states fighting the software company in the landmark anti-trust case announced that it was pulling out. South Carolina's move was a serious setback to the US Justice Department. Microsoft's share

price soared on hopes that more states may follow South Carolina's lead and withdraw from the legal assault.

Charles Condon, South Carolina's attorney general, said that he was dropping out of the case because the recent merger of America Online with Netscape, the Internet software company, showed the market as competitive. The federal government and 20 states are suing Microsoft, accusing it of abusing its position in operating systems.

Microsoft said that the 2000

bug posed no risk of data loss or damage to personal computers. "Customers would be unlikely to encounter the issues during normal daily use of their computer," the company said.

Nevertheless, the admission that Microsoft's new system contains a glitch must be an embarrassment for a product unveiled to such fanfare a few months ago.

Microsoft understands the critical nature of the year 2000 issue and is committed to diligently testing products and promptly providing information and solutions to its customers if issues arise, said Rich Kaplan, director of the platform infrastructure group at Microsoft. "In the course of Microsoft's testing

efforts with Windows 98, we have identified and fixed these minor year 2000 problems."

The year 2000 bug is expected to cost billions of dollars as companies confront the software glitch that could paralyse computers on January 1, 2000. Many computers will confuse the year 2000 with 1900 because of the way they have been programmed with only the last two digits, which could lead to chaos.

The 10 million customers who use Windows 98 might have thought they would be spared the Millennium Bug problem as the latest operating system was designed at a time when Microsoft engineers were well aware of the issue. It will make a Windows 98 update available that can be

downloaded from the Web.

Microsoft listed 11 problem areas, mostly connected to date displays. Computer users might be more concerned if they use a software programme called Microsoft Wallet. Microsoft says that when entering credit card information in earlier versions of Microsoft Wallet, users must enter the month, day and year for expiration dates beyond 2000. Otherwise information may be processed incorrectly.

Microsoft chairman Bill Gates welcomed South Carolina's decision on the legal case. He said that he hoped other states would review the situation. Microsoft disclosed that it had filed a motion seeking permission to discover documents from AOL and Netscape

about their merger and a side agreement with Sun Microsystems, a software rival of Microsoft's. Microsoft shares surged \$5 to \$132 1/2 in early afternoon trading following South Carolina's decision.

Sema, the Anglo-French computer group, has brought to an end IBM's 30-year record as controller of the information systems for the Olympic Games, writes Nicholas Bannister.

The International Olympic Committee has awarded the contract for the next two games and next two winter games to Sema in a deal expected to be worth more than \$130 million. The company will be responsible for the information systems for the Olympics to be held between 2001 and 2008.

### Notebook

## ScottishPower in a US quagmire



Alex Brummer

**T**HE NATURAL tendency to be excited because a large UK group is making an overseas takeover should be suppressed in the case of ScottishPower's \$4.7 billion move on Pacific Corp. It may seem sweet revenge that after the US assault on regional electricity companies — the traffic has now moved in the opposite direction. But then one has to question why.

In much the same way as the US assault on Britain was partly driven by the investment banking community — looking for large advisory fees as well as arrangement commissions for the finance — one suspects the reverse procedure is built on much the same motivations. These deals are less about industrial logic and more about financial engineering.

Certainly ScottishPower has demonstrated that it can run utilities well, as its management of Manweb and Southern Water has demonstrated. It also has shown skills in developing new wired technologies — these potentially can be better leveraged through Demcon, its Internet provider. But moving its management, branding and other skills to the Pacific Northwest is a different task entirely.

The room for improvement is there. Despite the premium being paid on market price (21 per cent on Friday night's close), PacificCorp is ranked 56th among the US utilities in terms of efficiency. Loads of room for improvement there. But there also are considerable problems. Managing a power company across the boundaries of five US states, each with its own regulatory arrangements, consumer activists, environmental campaigners, state laws and regulations, not to mention federal oversight, is the kind of nightmare which only the bravest of executives would want to tackle.

There may well be a considerable price to pay in terms of management time. Even if ScottishPower can cope with this, it needs to recognise that the consumer input into power pricing decisions in the US is considerable and will have the management on the back foot.

Moreover, the host states may be less than enthusiastic about the coming jobs cuts — as the company strives to take out \$200 million a year — than the shareholders looking for better returns.

The real danger is that other UK utilities will see the PacificCorp bid as the opening shot in a race for transatlantic links. So while the French concentrate on dominating

UK utility markets, domestic companies will be stuck in the same kind of quagmire that our banks once occupied in North America. Business will not be made any easier by the fall in the oil price (see below) which could make some of the coal assets which ScottishPower takes on look less economic. This is a deal too far.

### Deflation pointers

**T**HE drop in the price of Brent crude oil to below \$10-a-barrel might be thought of as a cause of celebration — after all it signals the death of inflation. But not a bit of it. Although some of the decline can be attributed to production advances, the glut is largely a demand problem. With many Asian economies barely growing and Japan — one of the biggest users of imported oil — in deep recession, demand is plunging and matters will get worse. Those countries dependent on oil simply to pay their bills — from Mexico to Russia — will find themselves in a downward spiral of lower revenues, worsening balance of payments, falling living standards and eventually the need to cut pay levels.

Efforts to prop up the price, through Opec-style production deals, have proved ineffectual because of the large volume of supplies outside Opec control and the desperation in some Middle-East countries to keep production up in the face of difficult economic decisions.

So what will be the consequence in the West? The first effect is to remove the inflationary threat from commodity prices, which allows Western countries to bring down interest rates: this will no doubt be a factor for the monetary policy committee which starts meeting tomorrow.

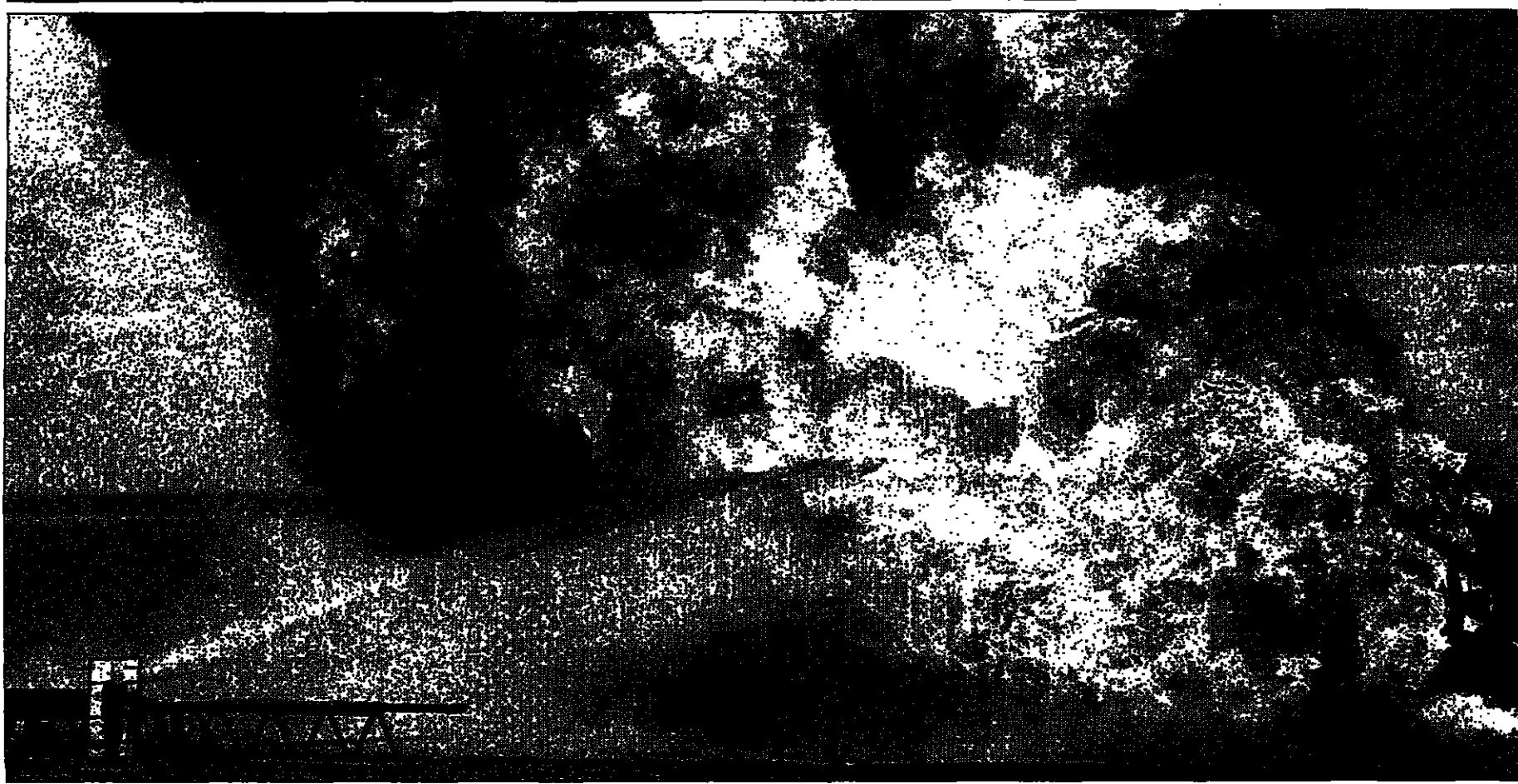
Indications are that oil demand could fall again as Western economies slow. The latest data from Germany shows German orders falling by 2.5 per cent. In the UK, manufacturing output fell 2.6 per cent in the three months to October, on an annualised basis. And the world's most profitable airline, BA, is reporting the worst business conditions since the Gulf war. If recession is to be headed off at the pass even more aggressive interest rate cuts will be necessary.

### Barclays challenge

**B**ARCLAYS deserve some credit for the detailed nature of its final briefing before the company enters the shock period. But after the shocks of the last year, culminating in the departure of the chief executive Martin Taylor, it had little choice.

In addition to the bad news on Russia and trading losses, already in the market, the bank disclosed that provisions have been made in the second half as a result of a deterioration in the corporate banking book. It also is shrinking Barclays Capital further. All of this will be quite a challenge for the new chief executive.

## Crude drops below \$10 per barrel



Black gold ... A column of flames and smoke signals not a disaster but a strike at California's Kern oil field, the fourth largest in the US. The 200ft plume of oil and gas has been burning since November 23 when a blow-out sent 17 drillers running for safety. Analysts predict the well will be a significant discovery

PHOTOGRAPH: BOB CHASTINE

## Sinking oil price ignites North Sea burn-out fears

Dan Atkinson and Terry Macalister

**O**IL prices dropped below \$10 a barrel yesterday to \$9.33, the lowest level in real terms since the early 1970s. The fall fostered fears that companies will pull out of the North Sea and transfer production to the deserts of the Middle East. The looming disintegration of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), due to quota cheating and unseasonably warm weather in the US energy market, combined to depress the

price into single figures for the first time since 1987.

London's International Petroleum Exchange (IPE) said the price benchmark Brent for January delivery had collapsed by nearly 60 per cent since early 1996, when it was about \$25 a barrel. That was then considered an average price, given that the West was just beginning to emerge from recession.

An early bounce in price was driven by the suggestion that Venezuela, with Iran an Opec quota cheater, was to return to the fold by sticking to its share of the ineffective 2.6

million barrel a day cuts package agreed this year. Traders later decided there was little to support an optimistic stance.

As the Brent price sank through the \$10-per-barrel floor, fears grew that the industry would simply abandon the North Sea fields.

The Anglo-Dutch Shell confirmed it had held discussions with Iraq about the country's exploration and development sector, while industry experts said vast swathes of the North Sea were now uneconomic and warned that operators would consider shutting down

production if prices did not recover soon.

"There have been preliminary talks with the ministry of oil in Iraq," a spokesman said. "But Shell would consider doing business with Iraq only in accordance with the UN resolutions."

Negotiations are believed to centre on the Ratawi field, 125 miles north of the southern city of Basrah. It has a production capacity of 250,000 barrels a day and would cost \$1.3 billion to develop.

Oil companies such as Total of France have been jostling to sign exploration

and production deals with Baghdad, to begin after the lifting of the United Nations embargo imposed after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Low development costs, reserves second only to Saudi Arabia and a transport infrastructure make Iraq highly attractive.

Alan Marshall, oil analyst with Robert Fleming Securities, said: "The North Sea is now effectively loss-making. Companies like Lasso need prices at \$13 to make money. That is why its share price is half what it was."

Mr Marshall predicted that

oil companies would begin to consider shutting down production.

"It's a big step to take, but if you believe the oil price is heading for \$8 and going to stay there, it could be a decision worth taking."

Low oil prices have damaged the share prices of all oil companies.

The industry has reacted by cutting costs drastically and consolidating to keep afloat. Last week, Exxon and Mobil plus Total and PetroFina tied up mergers, following British Petroleum's deal with Amoco.

## BAe confirms £14bn merger talks with Dasa

David Gow and Terry Macalister

**B**ritish Aerospace yesterday raised the prospect of an imminent £14 billion merger with Germany's Dasa after confirming that it was in advanced negotiations with other firms over the consolidation of Europe's defence and aerospace industries.

BAe insiders suggest that a deal with its German partner could be concluded before Christmas but admit that it could be derailed by stumbling blocks. GEC is also being mooted as a possible partner.

"BAe has been in discussions with other major industry participants with a view to progressing the consolidation of the European aerospace and defence industry."

"Certain discussions are now at a relatively advanced stage. However, no definitive agreements have been reached," BAe said.

The company's shares closed up 3 per cent at 511p, while those in DaimlerChrysler, Dasa's parent, also rose despite the British company's refusal to name

its would-be merger partner. City analysts believe a Bae-Dasa deal is on the cards, but speculate that it could be blown off course and replaced by an even bigger tie-up with GEC.

Last week Lord Simpson, GEC's chief executive, said his company would soon announce its new strategic course, and admitted he was still in discussions with BAe executives over a possible merger.

A Bae-GEC merger would create an American-style company active in both building aircrafts and supplying hi-tech electronics; a Bae-Dasa marriage would primarily make basic "platforms".

BAe is under pressure to conclude a deal with Dasa before Christmas in order to take advantage of German tax-breaks.

It is also keen to lift its share price, which has slumped because of fears that the plunging oil price is undermining its key Al Yamamah defence contract with Saudi Arabia. This usually brings in £2 billion a year, but payments have been delayed because of the squeeze on Saudi revenues.

## Scots become world power

David Gow

**S**COTTISHPOWER, the aggressively expanding multi-utility, yesterday propelled itself into the world electricity super-league with a £13 billion merger with Pacific Corp of the United States. The merger, effectively a takeover, is the first time a British company has bought a US utility, reversing a trend that until recently saw American power firms buying more than half of the regional companies in England and Wales.

But under the all-paper deal that will give ScottishPower shareholders 61 per cent of the new group, the Glasgow-based utility is paying a hefty \$1.2 billion (£800 million) premium to break into the American market, where it will gain 1.4 million customers in six states.

Ian Russell, ScottishPower's deputy-chief executive and finance director, insisted that the enlarged group would make annual cost-savings of \$200 million a year and recoup the premium in five years.

This failed to impress the markets, with ScottishPower shares in London marked down 66p, or nearly 10 per cent, partly on a bout of profit-taking once its target became clear.

The group has been the subject of much bid speculation in recent months, even with the failure of talks with Florida Progress and Cinergy, two other US utilities.

Some City analysts took fright at the regulatory hurdles ScottishPower will have

to jump in the US, notably in the five states — Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and Washington — where PacificCorp is active. The group has also to convince federal regulators that its takeover does not contravene a 1935 Act banning foreign ownership.

Mr Russell dismissed these fears, claiming that he had already held three meetings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. It was a myth to believe that foreign firms were banned from owning US utilities and 10 per cent of ScottishPower's shareholders were already American.

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Some City analysts took fright at the regulatory hurdles ScottishPower will have

## British Airways warns of rougher ride

Chris Barrie

**B**RTISH Airways' employees were warned last night that the airline industry was facing the worst business conditions since the Gulf war.

In one of the bleakest assessments to date of the economic climate, BA directors told their 80,000 staff that the company faced "exceptionally tough trading conditions".

The executives, including chief executive Robert Ayling, said that staff must sell more first and business class tickets if BA was to defend its share of premium rate tickets, crucial if the airline is to maintain its yield.

The terse warning came in the form of a written statement to employees in the company newspaper. Mr Ayling's words were aimed upon the City where investors took them as evidence that the airline was experiencing harsher

conditions. BA shares fell 2.2 per cent to close at 375p.

Last week BA warned investors that business class travel had fallen in November for the second month. Travelers are flying economy rather than business or business rather than first to save hard-pressed budgets. The trend is hitting BA's strategy of building its share of "front-end" passengers who pay premium rates.

The airline stressed last night that it was in a better position to cope with economic turbulence than most rivals, having already cut costs.

A spokesman added that BA's purchasing strategy was already aimed at tougher times. The airline was buying smaller aircraft.

## GKN fights the downturn with £335m US deal

Terry Macalister

**G**KN, the engineering group, yesterday took a big step into North America, unveiling a \$335 million plan to purchase Interlake Corp, which has a leading powder metals and aerospace parts business.

GKN believes it can straggle off the effects of a looming downturn in car manufacturing by investing in powder metals, a cheap but effective alternative to the forged metal used for car components.

Chief executive CK Chow said the deal was "an important step forward" for GKN's decision to expand from the three main divisions of powder metals, aerospace and industrial services.

GKN will also take on \$177 million of Interlake's debt. The British engineer, whose products range from car parts to Westland helicopters, will shortly commence a tender offer for all of the outstanding shares at \$7.25 (\$4.40) a share, having already won support from First Chicago Equity Corporation, which holds a 25 per cent stake in Interlake.

The US group has three main businesses: the Hoegans Corporation, a leading supplier of ferrous powdered metals; Chemtronics, which produces lightweight parts for aerospace engines; and Interlake Material Handling, the market leader in pallet and racking systems.

The GKN chief executive said the rest of its businesses were performing satisfactorily and that he was confident of progress in 1999 — particularly in aerospace and industrial services, a downturn of up to 4 per cent.

Mr Chow said the recent armoured car tie-up with Alvis had made a good start.

### TOURIST RATES — BANK GULF

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Austria 18.94	Greece 4.635	Mexico 0.91	South Africa 9.59
Belgium 56.73	Hong Kong 2.60	Netherlands 3.0342	Spain 236.82
Canada 2.47	India 70.84	New Zealand 3.70	Sweden 13.7
China 1.0570	Indonesia 1.850	Norway 12.35	Switzerland 12.21
Denmark 10.58	Israel 6.97	Portugal 274.55	Turkey 455.70
Finland 8.26	Italy 2.688	Saudi Arabia 6.12	USA 1.640
France 5.0328			

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John's 10/12/98



Racing

Chris Hawkins takes an in-depth look at a problem that is making the industry distinctly unstable

# Going gets harder for the foot soldiers

AS THE Stable Lads' Association approach annual negotiations over pay and conditions with the National Trainers Federation, Bill Adams, secretary of the SLA, warns of a crisis situation because of overworking.

"The industry is lurching into crisis," said Adams. "Experienced staff are quitting because fewer youngsters are coming into racing on a regular basis and they are having to look after too many horses."

"Pay rates in the industry are above the Government minimum hourly rate, but the real problem which is not being addressed is the ratio of horses to staff."

"There are about 12,500 horses in training and about 2,500 stable lads. That's a ratio of 5:1."

"We say 4:1 should be a maximum, but top yards in Newmarket and Lambourn and some others maintain a ratio of 3:1."

Adams wants a closer inspection of yards by the Jockey Club which has four inspectors who visit the 600 or so training establishments mainly for health and safety checks.

"Inspectors make appointments and warn trainers they are coming," complained Adams. "We need more spot checks to see if staff are being overworked. Owners should also find out what the ratio is before placing a horse with a trainer."

John Mackie, speaking for the Jockey Club, said: "We have had no official complaint over ratios from the SLA. Our inspection staff are free to report on anything that may concern them in a yard."

"If Bill Adams provides specific complaints they will be investigated promptly."

One of the root sources of the problems in stable hands is the lack of strength of the Association caused by apathy



Checkmate... Dream On Me (centre) finds the better turn of foot to score at Lingfield yesterday

among potential members or discouragement by employers.

Many of the complaints come from non-SLA members because some trainers will not employ union staff and Malton in Yorkshire is said to be the worst in this respect.

Adams explained: "Malton had only one SLA member, but he has gone now because of his commitment to the

Association. We are not and never will be a militant trade union as everyone knows full well."

"In Newmarket and Lambourn the situation is different. Top trainers are willing to collect the 60p a week subscription to the SLA because they realise that their success depends on a skillful and happy workforce."

"We aren't seeking a closed

shop, but we wish other trainers would accept we are here to help them to improve standards and create a successful industry to everyone's benefit."

Although pay rates in racing have improved in recent years - Class A staff earn an average £196 for a 40-hour week - they still lag behind most manual or factory jobs.

In Malton, for instance, the

main employer is a bacon factory - which is one of the largest in Europe where basic rates are £550 for a 40-hour week.

Trainers argue that poor prize money levels are responsible for the relative poverty of the industry and there is much in this.

The popular portrayal of the rich owner preferring the

verment for a greater share of betting revenue is often ridiculed, but such a response indicates a basic misunderstanding of the problem.

Only when there is sufficient prize money to make owning a racehorse a viable proposition will stable staff be paid a rate which allows the industry to compete with outside jobs and keep quality employees.

## SPORTS NEWS 13

### Cycling

# Virenque at the end of the road

The wheels have come off for France's hero, writes William Fotheringham

RICHARD Virenque's phenomenal popularity in France was largely a result of his need to create Tour de France stars. This July, however, the soap opera in which Virenque had starred for six years ended in a bitter, worst-case scenario, but it was still only appropriate that his retirement was announced live on television.

The fact that it was Virenque's brother Lionel, who has been in charge of finding him a place in a team for next year, who broke the news, has led to speculation that the move is a bluff aimed at shocking a team sponsor into backing France's most popular cyclist. Virenque has no backer for next season, none is likely to come forward.

His final shot was aimed at heart strings as well as purse strings. "I would like to apologise to the fans. I would like to continue to make you dream, but I am not being given the chance," he said.

Virenque's lawyer, Gilbert Collard, said that the cyclist "is a chap who functions wholly on friendship, and he cannot live with the feeling that he is considered a liar".

The declaration has shocked the wider French public who have not followed the finer contours of the Festina scandal as it has unfolded since July 8. Virenque will take on the status of a martyr for the public who have lined the roads of France each July waving flags and banners bearing his name.

Next year the banners will ask, as they did last July after he and the Festina team were thrown off the race: why Virenque and not the others?

The answer to that question is that Virenque has chosen the wrong course of action since the scandal broke, when the car carrying the Festina team's drugs to the start of the Tour was stopped by customs on the Franco-Belgian border. His line has been consistent: he is a victim, the affair is a plot, he has never taken drugs.

Virenque has seemed increasingly isolated as teammates and team helpers have confessed one by one to using or providing the drugs. He has always been criticised by his fellow cyclists for behaving as if the Tour de France is his personal fiefdom.

That arrogance turned into a deluded state of mind that was cruelly mocked by France's satirical television show *Les Guignols*. Their Virenque puppet has several syringes sticking out of his body, but he maintains that they have put in "without his knowledge" by his own free will. "I would like to apologise to the fans. I would like to continue to make you dream, but I am not being given the chance," he said.

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## Huntingdon Jackpot card with form guide

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COMMENTARY RESULTS

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FONTWELL 142 152

SEDGEFIELD 143 153

ALL COURSES COMMENTARY 09064 700 140

ALL COURSES RESULTS 09064 700 150

The Guardian INTERACTIVE

## Doubt over Sedgefield

ROST threatens today's meeting at Sedgefield where there will be a 7.30 inspection this morning.

Hexham, also in the grip of the cold, will hold a precautionary inspection at 2.30pm today to determine if tomorrow's meeting can go ahead.

Yesterday's meeting at Farnham was abandoned due to snow.

## ALPHAMERIC BETTING DISPLAY SYSTEMS NOVICE HANDICAP

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## Football

## Premiership

Sheffield Wednesday 3 Nottingham Forest 2

# Carbone settles it at the double

David Hopps

THERE are only 16 shopping days to Christmas and Nottingham Forest's striker Pierre van Hooijdonk must be wondering how much longer his side's Premiership season will last before they are forced to offer him at bargain price.

Thirteen matches without a Premiership win suggests that something at Forest must soon give, and even Van Hooijdonk's goal 20 minutes from time failed to prevent a Sheffield Wednesday victory which moved them seven points clear of the relegation positions.

Football managers are nothing if not experts in self-delusion which left Danny Wilson

and Dave Bassett approaching last night's match with an insistence that the season has not brought its rightful rewards.

As it was, it took the Swede Nicolas Alexandersson 21 minutes to draw first blood for Wednesday with his third goal of the season. A fortnight ago he had attracted attention by scoring twice against Manchester United; last night he went totally unobserved — by the Forest defence at least — as he stroled in unmarked at the far post to head in Carbone's first 15 minutes.

Wednesday had been edged on by Forest's initial uncertainty. Two efforts by Peter Rudi went astray, first a header from six yards after Andy Hinchliffe's quick corner caught Forest unawares fol-



Beyond reach... Forest's goalkeeper Dave Beasant is beaten by Nicolas Alexandersson's far-post header that gave Sheffield Wednesday the lead last night

PHOTOGRAPH: ROSS KINARD

lowed by a deflected shot made possible by an inventive flick by Carbone that was quite out of kilter with an impoverished first 15 minutes.

However Forest might have stolen the lead soon afterwards. While Kevin Pressman recovered from a strained thigh, Wednesday's goal is being tended by the more light-weight figure of Pavel Srnec.

although at first glance the Czech looks substantially wider.

Srnec needed to be at his liveliest to save a low shot from Alan Rogers but a little extra flesh has his advantages on a dank and chilly night and he punched away straight-forward shots from Andy Johnson and Chris Bart-Williams as if he could not extend

his fingers without the aid of a pair of pliers.

Twelve minutes into the second half, Wednesday's victory looked all but assured. Carbone provided two deft goals within five minutes — his first in the Premiership this season — and although Thierry Bonalair responded in between for Forest, a 3-1 lead appeared comfortable.

Carbone, allowed a roving role alongside Andy Booth, eluded the Forest defence down the right and left in turn.

His first goal, after 52 minutes, was a luscious chip over Beasant; his second, cutting in from the left with rather more devil, purred gently across the goalkeeper into the far corner.

Forest's goal was commonplace by comparison, Bonalair

getting ahead of Rudi and Hinchliffe at the far post to turn in Rogers' left-wing cross.

Pierre van Hooijdonk had been a largely peripheral figure, occasionally showing polite displeasure with his teammates' limited use of him. But he remains a high-class striker and when a deflected shot fell conveniently into his path after 70 minutes his efficient

finish ensured that Wednesday would face a sterner examination than they might have imagined.

Sheffield Wednesday (4-4-3): Srnec; Alex, Emerson, Walker, Hinchliffe; Alexandersson, Jonk, Schuster, Rudi (Grice, 70); Carbone (Bennett, 80). Nottingham Forest (3-5-2): Beasant; Hoyle, Christie, Armstrong (Gray, 82); Bonalair, Johnson, Dushoff (Garnham, 82); Bart-Williams, Rogers; Darville (Harrison, 78). Van Hooijdonk (Substitutes: 78, 80, 82).

## Wenger will put pen to contract

Martin Thorpe

ARSENAL WENGER has finally promised to sign a new high-profile contract today, seven months after it was first put in front of him. The Arsenal manager's decision will bring some relief to the double winners as they fly to Greece without 13 first-team players, through injury and suspension, for their final Champions League tie against Panathinaikos.

Wenger's delay over signing on for a further four years prompted damaging speculation and encouraged Real Madrid to show an interest. But yesterday Wenger insisted: "It will definitely be done tomorrow. Basically it is already done because I've given my word and that is more important than my signature. But now it is 100 per cent when he signed."

There were suggestions that Wenger delayed signing because of fears that the club would be sold and the manager's ability to run the team as he saw fit taken away.

In Athens, Wenger must put together a team in a meaningless match for Arsenal, who blew their chances of a quarter-final place after losing at home to Lens two weeks ago, but one which will have a bearing on which other team goes through.

Yesterday Marc Overmars was ruled out with a groin injury, joining a casualty list that includes Dennis Bergkamp, Tony Adams, Patrick Vieira, Emmanuel Petit and Nigel Winterburn. Lee Dixon and Ray Parlour are also miss-

ing through bans whereas Martin Keown and Remi Garde have groin strains, though both will travel.

Wenger will certainly call on youngsters such as Matthew Upson, Alberto Mendez, Luis Boa Morte and David Grondin before filling his substitutes' bench with untied teenagers such as Greg Lincolin, Omer Riza, Paolo Verza and the brothers Michael and Tommy Black.

In the meantime Arsenal have signed Berkovic: not the West Ham forward Eyal but his brother Nir. The Berkovic family have reached an agreement with Arsenal's chairman David Dein under which the 16-year-old will play as a schoolboy for two years from next month.

Blackburn Rovers' new manager Brian Kidd opened the door for Brian McClair to become a permanent fixture. McClair is expected to be in place before Saturday's home game with Newcastle.

The Coventry chairman Bryan Richardson could face a Football Association misconduct charge over his verbal attack on the referee Steve Dunn after Saturday's defeat at Wimbledon. Dunn has insisted Richardson's comments in his report.

Coventry's manager Gordon Strachan said: "In my 25 years in the game I have never known a chairman go into a referee's room before. My chairman did that and I'd back him up. He was an angry man. Things happened that were not punished."

## Pools Forecast

## FA CUP FIRST ROUND

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## SECOND DIVISION

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## THIRD DIVISION

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## FOURTH DIVISION

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## FIFTH DIVISION

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## SIXTH DIVISION

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## SEVENTH DIVISION

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## EIGHTH DIVISION

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## NINTH DIVISION

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## TENTH DIVISION

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## ELEVENTH DIVISION

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## TWELFTH DIVISION

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## THIRTEENTH DIVISION

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## FOURTEENTH DIVISION

1. Blackpool v Newcastle  
2. Derby v Chelsea  
3. Brentford v Southampton  
4. Luton v Nottm Forest  
5. Reading v Wigan  
6. Shrewsbury v Charlton  
7. Tottenham v Man Utd

## Champions League, Group D: Manchester United v Bayern Munich

## Positive Hitzfeld plans Munich putsch

### Ulrich Hesse-Lichtenberger on why "Hollywood FC" are no longer star-struck

THE Kaiser looked ashen. "This may be tantamount to an early exit," he said. "Now we have to win all of our remaining games." Then words failed even the compulsive talker Franz Beckenbauer.

Bayern Munich's president had just seen his team throw away their opening Champions League game in Copenhagen on September 16, conceding two goals in the last three minutes to lose 2-1 to Brondby. That defeat was so hard to take because the Bayern tradition does not allow for them to be beaten by smaller clubs. Beckenbauer has disparaged Europe's lesser lights so much that one newspaper recently

called him "the man who makes a grimace whenever he has to say 'Trondheim'". Furthermore the Champions League has become Bayern's Holy Grail because, although they consider themselves among the Continent's elite, they have not won the top club prize since lifting the European Cup three times in a row in the mid-Seventies. They claimed the UEFA Cup in 1996, but only after Beckenbauer had dubbed it the "Losers' Cup".

The manner in which they lost to Brondby was symptomatic of Bayern's problems in the Nineties. They regularly assembled a great squad only for arrogance, indiscipline

and internal feuds to ruin everything.

Beckenbauer's constant second-guessing of his coaches and Lothar Matthäus's loss of touch — in 1996, he even challenged his then team-mate Jürgen Klinsmann to a "TV-duel" — created a circus atmosphere that earned Bayern the nickname "Hollywood FC" and gave birth to the saying: "The team that will stop Bayern are Bayern themselves."

But Brondby proved a minor setback and Bayern have been unbeaten in the Champions League since, defeating Barcelona twice. Now Bayern need only draw against Manchester United at Old Trafford tomorrow to reach the quarter-finals.

That things have been different this season is down to the arrival as coach of Ottmar Hitzfeld, who guided Borussia

Dortmund to the Champions League in 1997. He has managed to control the club's hot-headed stars and in response to his policy of making ruthless changes to rest players, not even Matthäus has called the tabloids in protest at being left on the bench.

They made a good start in the league — they are neck and neck with Bayer Leverkusen at the top after drawing

2-2 at Bochum on Friday — by playing uncharacteristically attacking football.

The depth of their squad has been a key factor in their success. For example, Alexander Zickler and Hasan Salihamidzic, whose goals earned the 2-1 win at the Nou Camp after Barcelona had taken the lead, are not first-team regulars. But that many are under Hitzfeld's thumb, as Oliver Kahn in goal, Matthäus at sweeper, Stefan Effenberg in midfield and the Brazilian striker Giovane Elber.

However Matthäus and Effenberg are bright lights in this chain. At 37 the veteran German captain is highly vulnerable to pace, while the team's veteran striker has a tendency to sulk in the face of adversity.

Bayern can create enormous

pressure through the French World Cup winning wing-back Bixente Lizarazu and Mario Basler down the flanks and Effenberg through the middle, but if either of the latter have one of their frequent off-days it leaves the strike force in limbo.

Bayern are over-reliant on the attack because defence is their Achilles' heel. They may have conceded only 13 goals in 15 league games, but that is almost entirely down to Khan's goalkeeping. Because of the defensive shortcomings the ball-winning abilities of the midfielder Jens Jeremies will be vital to their chances at Qld Trafford.

Although Bayern have failed to win any of their last three away games that has not dampened their confidence. "We won't play for a draw at Manchester," said Hitzfeld.

## Uefa Cup third round, second leg

Liverpool (1) v Celta Vigo (3)

## Houllier still positive

Ian Ross

LIVERPOOL may discover to their cost this evening that a team must rue its inability to master the referee when improbable victory beckons.

Despite being outplayed — comprehensively so — by Celta Vigo in Spain a fortnight ago, the Merseysiders still believe themselves to be capable of edging through into the last eight of this season's Uefa Cup.

They trail 3-1 and yesterday the talk around Anfield was admirably defiant, embracing the predictable themes of a gung-ho attack, stout resistance and, of course, that most necessary smattering of outrageous good fortune which so often settles ties such as these.

The Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier is adamant that his team can score sufficient goals to confound logic and with players like Michael Owen, Robbie Fowler and Patrick Berger available to him it is an argument that would hold champagne never mind water.

But the question is, can Liverpool possibly negotiate 90 minutes without conceding the away goal which would, presumably, see an already difficult task move into the Mission Impossible category.

The statistics suggest that Vigo's free-running forwards will score at least once which would leave Houllier's boys needing a hat-trick at the other end. "We are in a bad spell; at the moment we are low profile," conceded Houllier. "If we can get through this it will be one of this club's best performances for some considerable time."

The fact that Houllier has spent the vast majority of his waiting hours scouring the globe for defenders would suggest that he knows where his priorities lie. But tonight, Liverpool's rearguard will boast the familiar, unreliable components.

"I shall start with five at the back because we look more comfortable with that formation," said Houllier. "However, if as I expect, Vigo come to defend, I shall change things around."

The most persuasive argument for a comfortable Spanish victory will come shortly before kick-off in the shape of the Liverpool team sheet. There will be no Paul Ince, no Steve McManaman, no Jamie Redknapp and no Vegard Heggem — all suspended.

Patrick Glenn in Parma

THE Rangers captain Lorenzo Amoroso could pre-empt his departure from Ibrox by performing a last-minute favour to Italy for this afternoon's decisive match in the third round of the Uefa Cup.

The Italian central defender is the subject of persistent rumours that Juventus are interested in taking him to Turin — and Amoroso confessed yesterday that he liked the idea.

"I don't know much about the rumours, but I would be happy to go to Juventus. The two clubs are already talking, but I don't really know. I'm doing my best for this team [Rangers] but we'll see what happens."

The loss of Amoroso would

not exactly induce a revolt from Rangers supporters and there seems little doubt that the club would sell for around the £4 million they paid Fiorentina in the summer of 1997.

Impressing interested onlookers at the Stadio Olimpico today, however, could be difficult. Amoroso, along with his partner Colin Hendry, will have to cope with the deadly pace of Parma's two strikers, Enrico Chiesa and Herman Crespo.

They will have help from an unusual source in the midfielder Ian Ferguson, who will be deployed in a defensive role to look after the main supplier to the Parma strikers Juan Sebastian Veron.

Ferguson did a similar job in the 1-1 draw in the first match two weeks ago but Veron, the Argentinian bought from Sampdoria for

£12.5 million, still found the space to create the Italian side's goal.

The Rangers coach Dick Advocaat insists that he will continue with two forwards, which means that either Jorg Alenxander or Barry Ferguson will be dropped from midfield. It will probably be Alenxander, as Advocaat is likely to favour a more energetic type than the languid German.

"What makes this match different is that we will pay more attention to the opposition than usual," said the Dutchman. "But bringing Ian Ferguson in to police Veron is the only specific change I will make to cope with Parma."

Amoroso (probable); Belfort, Thuram, Soriano, Camerone, Faler, Baggio, Bogdanovic, Bernabev, Veron, Crespo, Chiesa. Rangers (probable): Miller, Parrish, Hendry, Amoroso, Numan, Kerslake, S. Ferguson, J. Ferguson, van Bronckhorst, Wallace, Durie.

## Wise banned for three games after his third sending-off

THE Football Association has confirmed that Chelsea's captain Dennis Wise will be banned for three matches after his sending-off at Everton last Saturday.

Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said Wise had been given a mandatory one-game suspension after being sent off at Goodison Park for two bookable offences, plus a further two-game punishment because it was his third red card since summer.

The ban takes in the home game with Tottenham on December 19, the trip to Southampton on Boxing Day and the visit of Manchester United three days later and takes the total number of games Wise has missed through suspensions this season to 10.

Wise was sent off in a pre-season game, which meant he started the campaign with a three-match ban and received another four games after being sent off in a Worthington Cup tie with Aston Villa.

He had only just returned from that punishment and his two clumsy challenges,

on Danny Cadamarteri and then on Marco Materazzi, have landed him in more hot water.

Chelsea's manager Gianluca Vialli was careful with his words after the game but was aware that Wise had gone into print on Saturday morning saying he "couldn't change his style" and "there would be no more Mr Nice Guy" after his earlier promise not to be sent off again.

The Republic of Ireland will play Paraguay in Dublin on February 10 in a warm-up friendly for their next Euro 2000 qualifier away to Macedonia six weeks later.

Mick McCarthy's side will also entertain Sweden on April 28 and will then meet Northern Ireland, also in Dublin, on May 29 in aid of victims of the Omagh bomb tragedy earlier this year.

Provisional trips to Poland on August 18 and Denmark on October 9 are being negotiated to take place either side of September's potentially decisive Euro 2000 qualifiers away to Croatia and Malta.

## Results

## Football

## FA CUP FIRST ROUND

Blackpool 1-0 Newcastle  
Derby 1-0 Chelsea  
Brentford 1-0 Southampton  
Luton 1-0 Nottm Forest  
Reading 1-0 Wigan  
Shrewsbury 1-0 Charlton  
Tottenham 1-0 Man Utd

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

Blackpool 1-0 Newcastle  
Derby 1-0 Chelsea  
Brentford 1-0 Southampton  
Luton 1-0 Nottm Forest  
Reading 1-0 Wigan  
Shrewsbury 1-0 Charlton  
Tottenham 1-0 Man Utd

## SECOND DIVISION

Blackpool 1-0 Newcastle  
Derby 1-0 Chelsea  
Brentford 1-0 Southampton  
Luton 1-0 Nottm Forest  
Reading 1-0 Wigan  
Shrewsbury 1-0 Charlton  
Tottenham 1-0 Man Utd

## THIRD DIVISION

Blackpool 1-0 Newcastle  
Derby 1-0 Chelsea  
Brentford 1-0 Southampton  
Luton 1-0 Nottm Forest  
Reading 1-0 Wigan  
Shrewsbury 1-0 Charlton  
Tottenham 1-0 Man Utd

## FOURTH DIVISION

Blackpool 1-0 Newcastle  
Derby 1-0 Chelsea  
Brentford 1-0 Southampton  
Luton 1-0 Nottm Forest  
Reading 1-0 Wigan  
Shrewsbury 1-0 Charlton  
Tottenham 1-0 Man Utd

## FIFTH DIVISION

Blackpool 1-0 Newcastle  
Derby 1-0 Chelsea  
Brentford 1-0 Southampton  
Luton 1-0 Nottm Forest  
Reading 1-0 Wigan  
Shrewsbury 1-0 Charlton  
Tottenham 1-0 Man Utd

## SIXTH DIVISION

Blackpool 1-0 Newcastle  
Derby 1-0 Chelsea  
Brentford 1-0 Southampton  
Luton 1-0 Nottm Forest  
Reading 1-0 Wigan  
Shrewsbury 1-0 Charlton  
Tottenham 1-0 Man Utd

## SEVENTH DIVISION

Blackpool 1-0 Newcastle  
Derby 1-0 Chelsea  
Brentford 1-0 Southampton  
Luton 1-0 Nottm Forest  
Reading 1-0 Wigan  
Shrewsbury 1-0 Charlton  
Tottenham 1-0 Man Utd

## EIGHTH DIVISION

Blackpool 1-0 Newcastle  
Derby 1-0 Chelsea  
Brentford 1-0 Southampton  
Luton 1-0 Nottm Forest  
Reading 1-0 Wigan  
Shrewsbury 1-0 Charlton  
Tottenham 1-0 Man Utd

## NINTH DIVISION

Blackpool 1-0 Newcastle  
Derby 1-0 Chelsea  
Brentford 1-0 Southampton  
Luton 1-0 Nottm Forest  
Reading 1-0 Wigan  
Shrewsbury 1-0 Charlton  
Tottenham 1-0 Man Utd

## TENTH DIVISION

Blackpool 1-0 Newcastle  
Derby 1-0 Chelsea  
Brentford 1-0 Southampton  
Luton 1-0 Nottm Forest  
Reading 1-0 Wigan  
Shrewsbury 1-0 Charlton  
Tottenham 1-0 Man Utd

## ELEVENTH DIVISION

Blackpool 1-0 Newcastle  
Derby 1-0 Chelsea  
Brentford 1-0 Southampton  
Luton 1-0 Nottm Forest  
Reading 1-0 Wigan  
Shrewsbury 1-0 Charlton  
Tottenham 1-0 Man Utd

## TWELFTH DIVISION

Blackpool 1-0 Newcastle  
Derby 1-0 Chelsea  
Brentford 1-0 Southampton  
Luton 1-0 Nottm Forest  
Reading 1-0 Wigan  
Shrewsbury 1-0 Charlton  
Tottenham 1-0 Man Utd

## American Football

San Francisco 31-0 Oakland  
Dallas 24-10 New Orleans  
Pittsburgh 24-10 Cincinnati  
Denver 24-10 Kansas City  
Miami 24-10 Tampa Bay  
Houston 24-10 San Diego  
Seattle 24-10 Minnesota  
Los Angeles 24-10 St Louis  
Cleveland 24-10 Baltimore  
Indianapolis 24-10 Chicago  
Jacksonville 24-10 Tampa Bay  
New England 24-10 Washington  
San Diego 24-10 Arizona  
Denver 24-10 Kansas City  
Miami 24-10 Tampa Bay  
Houston 24-10 San Diego  
Seattle 24-10 Minnesota  
Los Angeles 24-10 St Louis  
Cleveland 24-10 Baltimore  
Indianapolis 24-10 Chicago  
Jacksonville 24-10 Tampa Bay  
New England 24-10 Washington  
San Diego 24-10 Arizona  
Denver 24-10 Kansas City  
Miami 24-10 Tampa Bay  
Houston 24-10 San Diego  
Seattle 24-10 Minnesota  
Los Angeles 24-10 St Louis  
Cleveland 24-10 Baltimore  
Indianapolis 24-10 Chicago  
Jacksonville 24-10 Tampa Bay  
New England 24-10 Washington  
San Diego 24-10 Arizona  
Denver 24-10 Kansas City  
Miami 24-10 Tampa Bay  
Houston 24-10 San Diego  
Seattle 24-10 Minnesota  
Los Angeles 24-10 St Louis  
Cleveland 24-10 Baltimore  
Indianapolis 24-10 Chicago  
Jacksonville 24-10 Tampa Bay  
New England 24-10 Washington  
San Diego 24-10 Arizona  
Denver 24-10 Kansas City  
Miami 24-10 Tampa Bay  
Houston 24-10 San Diego  
Seattle 24-10 Minnesota  
Los Angeles 24-10 St Louis  
Cleveland 24-10 Baltimore  
Indianapolis 24-10 Chicago  
Jacksonville 24-10 Tampa Bay  
New England 24-10 Washington  
San Diego 24-10 Arizona  
Denver 24-10 Kansas City  
Miami 24-10 Tampa Bay  
Houston 24-10 San Diego  
Seattle 24-10 Minnesota  
Los Angeles 24-10 St Louis  
Cleveland 24-10 Baltimore  
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Houston 24-10 San Diego  
Seattle 24-10 Minnesota  
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Cleveland 24-10 Baltimore  
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New England 24-10 Washington  
San Diego 24-10 Arizona  
Denver 24-10 Kansas City  
Miami 24-





## SportsGuardian

## Ince can leave Liverpool for £3.5m

Ian Ross and Russell Thomas on midfield moves

**T**HE SALE of Paul Ince will be sanctioned by Liverpool's manager Gérard Houllier as the Frenchman begins the task of rejuvenating the squad he has inherited at Anfield.

Having missed out on one combative midfielder yesterday, when David Batty's move between Newcastle and Leeds was all but ratified, the new manager of Tottenham, George Graham, will no doubt be pleasantly surprised to learn that any offer of around £3.5 million would probably be sufficient to land another in Ince.

Although Houllier regards the 31-year-old Ince as a key member of his team, he would definitely not stand in his way were Tottenham to make official what is a long-standing interest.

Ince joined Liverpool from Internazionale in a £4.2 million deal 18 months ago but has been bedevilled by inconsistency and disciplinary problems.

Houllier is already planning for the future and to that end has pencilled in the Croatia winger Silvio Maric as the natural successor to Ince's England's colleague Steve McManaman.

Houllier now accepts that McManaman will leave Anfield in a Bosman-dictated free transfer next summer and he is already working towards filling the void by signing the £3 million-rated Maric from Croatia Zagreb.

Negotiations for Maric have already opened in earnest and a deal could be

agreed in principle within the next 10 days.

Batty was undergoing a medical yesterday after Leeds and Newcastle agreed a fee of around £4.4 million for the England midfielder to rejoin his hometown club. Leeds are scheduled to parade him at an Elland Road press conference at 12.30pm today.

Batty, 30 last week, played in the side that won the last Football League title in 1992, a Leeds team captained by Gordon Strachan. He is now set to make his second debut against the Scot's Coventry team at Elland Road next Monday.

Drew Tiffney, acting for Batty, said: "The move is subject to a medical and finalising personal terms. We don't foresee any problem."

Batty, whose home is a stone's throw from Leeds' training ground, was a ball boy at Elland Road and started as a trainee there in 1987. He had a transfer request accepted by Runcorn 11 days ago but the clubs originally could not agree a fee.

Leeds' initial offer of £4 million was rejected, with Newcastle said to be holding out for closer to £6 million. When Leeds raised their bid, and with Batty having agreed to waive £800,000 in signing-on bonuses, negotiated when he signed a fresh Newcastle deal only in summer, the path back to his favourite club was eased.

Batty made 257 appearances for Leeds before leaving for Blackburn for £2.75 million in 1993, won the Premiership title with the Lancashire club and then moved to Tyneside for £3.75 million in 1996.

He will become David O'Leary's first major signing since he took over as Leeds manager on October 25.

## England's rock cracks



Wounded soldier... Graham Thorpe leans on his bat for support before retiring hurt during the match against Victoria

PHOTOGRAPH: IAN WALDE

## Thorpe may be forced to back out of tour

Mike Selvey in Melbourne

**G**RAHAM THORPE, the rock of the England batting, may have played his last match of the tour because of his continuing back problems.

The Surrey left-hander, who missed the second Test in Perth, had been using the game here against Victoria to prove his fitness for the third Test starting in Adelaide on Friday.

After batting for 40 minutes yesterday and making one run, he retired glumly to the dressing-room following a conversation with England's physiotherapist Wayne Morton during a drinks interval.

Thorpe was suffering from more spasms, which is to be expected in someone undergoing stringent rehabilitation after surgery in the summer. England's tour manager Graham Gooch said it cast doubt on Thorpe's selection for the rest of the tour. The next two days will be crucial.

The discomfort, which clears up when he is not playing, appears to be in a broad band across his lower back. Until the last 14 days Morton had been pleased with Thorpe's post-operative progress on this tour.

Morton explained: "He experiences problems with weight transference from back to front foot which for a player of Graham's calibre is not on. We will have to make several decisions not only about this match but the rest of the tour. There is only so long you can carry a wounded soldier in the hope he will recover."

Match report, page 18



Jim White

## Celebrating another year of glorious failure

**A**T OXFORD United's Manor Ground on Saturday, as their club wobbled from crisis to disaster as if under the stewardship of William Hague, the people who compile the local fanzine were busy at work eliciting support for a vital stage in their campaign to save the place. A couple of them were standing by the turnstiles collecting votes for the manager Malcolm Shotton as BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

As doomed ventures go, this was up there with putting the house on John Crawley to be

England's leading run-maker in the Ashes series (50-1 with Coral's if anyone's contemplating a punt).

With his comedy sergeant-major touchline demeanor, Shotton may well exhibit considerably more character than many a football coach. But, as we all know, any competition which links the words personality and Mansell in the same sentence traditionally has little to do with that sort of thing. Besides, as has been proven by the annual efforts of the fishing lobby to get their man elevated into the title by the quaint expedient of engineering several million votes on his behalf, the country's most venerable sporting award has never been a transparent exercise in democracy.

Instead, what it has always been about is a celebration of the year's sport as seen through the lens of BBC cameras. Which will mean hummering down this coming Sunday evening for a couple of hours of badminton, the Boat Race and a re-run of those dramatic concluding moments from the curling final at the Winter Olympics. Plus a preview of next year's big new offering by the corporation: the final of the Welsh national tree-felling championships.

To be fair, picking a practitioner to represent the best of BBC sport will have been easier this time round than for years. And not just because the following sports can immediately be struck from the reckoning for reasons of lack of footage: rugby union, rugby league, Formula One, boxing and, as of next season, cricket. No, the real reason why not even the inclusion of Malcolm Shotton in the race will change the odds is that this year we will witness the biggest shoo-in anywhere since Elizabeth Murdoch came out at the top of the list of candidates to take over at Sky TV: Michael Owen. Certainly William Hill can see no further than the Boy Wonder, quoting odds of 1-5 yesterday on him picking up the award.

**W**ELL, who else could it be other than Owen? Even if the BBC had the rights to show anything worth watching, Sunday's programme could hardly constitute a celebration of British achievement. This has been a year of outstanding lack of sporting success, even by the modest standards we set ourselves in this country. Aside from Tim Henman reaching the semi-finals of Wimbledon, our Commonwealth Games team picking up a couple of medals and the British athletes looking useful in Europe, what else was there? True, Chelsea won a

European trophy, but that was with a team largely made up of foreigners and if Dennis Wise, their leading Englishman, was invited to Television Centre to pick up a gong, there is no guarantee he would still be in the studio at the end of the recording.

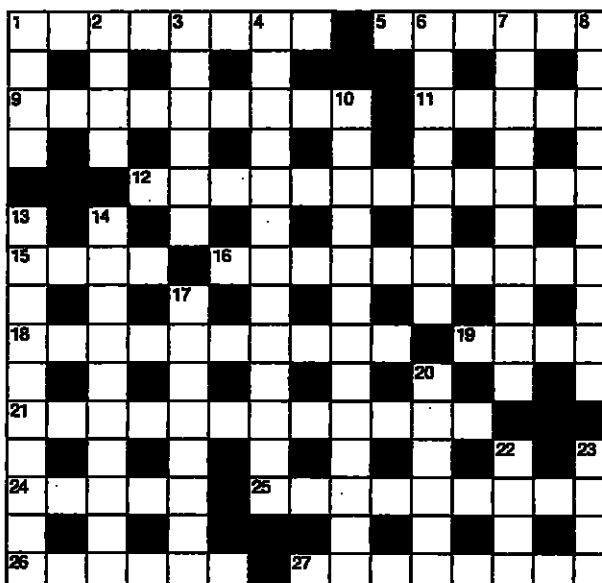
Entirely appropriate then, for a programme celebrating a dire year, shown by a broadcaster which has been stripped of most worthwhile contracts, that the winner represents glorious failure. So Owen, the man who won us the World Cup (well, give or take one unlucky result) will step forward to scoop the trophy. We will be treated to his goal against Argentina replayed for only the 17th time this week and the lad himself will do his best to look surprised as he is offered the prize by Sir Desmond.

Meanwhile, up in Merseyside, the Liverpool management will breathe a sigh of relief that the award has not yet been assigned to the dustbin of embarrassment to which many a commentator believes it is destined.

Owen was saying yesterday that he would leave the club at the end of his contract if he didn't start winning things. The way Liverpool are playing, the Beeb's is the only trophy he is within a sniff of putting on the sideboard this year.

## Guardian Crossword No 21,452

Set by Bunthorne



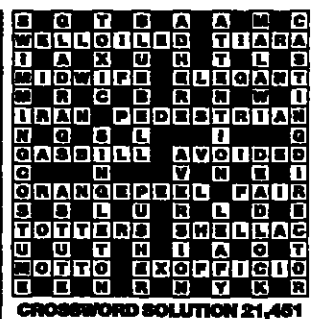
## Across

- 1 Giving Order of Garter to breathtaking performer (8)
- 5 Thus Clovis, a Carolingian, holding all his eggs in one basket (6)
- 9 Drive source of Lloyd's bell, a steamship, coming in second (8)
- 11 Playwright listening to seer (5)
- 12 Consecration of
- 15 King of the French colonising (4)
- 16 Graphic exposition of wall-to-wall conspiracy? (6,4)
- 18 Gals involved with Kest's a good deal? (5,1,4)
- 19 Comic 20 (4)
- 21 Innocence set tarantula free (7,5)

- 24 Point to imminent return of capital punishment (5)
- 25 Air crew? Quite the reverse (3,6)
- 26 19 or 19 to old comic (6)
- 27 From complaint, rude reply: "Not one of us" (6)

## Down

- 1,2 Film by Chaplin or Reed (4,4)
- 3 Number One for energy after work (6)
- 4 Range and location of 1 down, so the 13s said (4,4,5)
- 6 Roman sack nose entrant used rocket and got his explosion (8)
- 7 Gift distributor has itinerant casual worker going in on Sunday (5,5)
- 8 The fruit of 13's loins (10)
- 10 Points parting detailed no express (8,5)
- 13 Troglodyte numbered among the 1 down, 2 (5-5)
- 14 "Dear RMS"? (8-4)
- 17 Insatiable demand for an suite rooms initially (8)
- 20 Beaumont's collaborator gives a florin to Durer, say? (6)
- 22 Wife faithful through eleven idylls (4)
- 23 He left his stain on Amritsar (4)



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He gained a family to hide his homosexuality. She gained a vehicle for her social climbing. **Martin Kettle** on the laying bare of the Huffingtons' double-act

## The curse of a White wedding

Cambridge Union and for taking Bernard Levin, who took her to the opera a lot. But she became notorious by writing an attack on Germanic Greek's *The Female Eunuch*. The Female Eunuch became a best-seller and launched her on a career, which continues to this day, as a rightwing commentator.

Most of Armitage's other books — on Picasso, on Maria Callas, on politics and the horrors of socialism — have been praised by some pretty heavyweight critics. When Philip Toynbee reviewed *The Other Revolution* in 1978, he felt he was watching a young woman struggling to get out of a primordial swamp — and constantly wedding back in again.

Critics say her ambitions have always exceeded her talents. She is also an irredeemable social climber, by reputation the kind of woman who will meet a woman at lunch and have flowers delivered to her fashionable Manhattan apartment or stuccoed front door in Knightsbridge next morning.

Her pushiness is legendary and she made her many enemies. When the BBC wanted her to write a column, Sunday Night At The Mill (yes, BBC Probe Mill in down-casuals Brian) in 1980, the boys of mirth and malice gave could be heard from Oxford in TV Centre via Cambridge. Viewers had rung in to complain about her recent, still distinctly un-Britannic, *Armitage* was untried, *She was probably too up-market, she*

explained. And Britain was still "too condescending to accents".


In these days, Armitage was briding an adherent of the now-defunct movement known as *Est*. She was a friend of *Est's* founder, Wernicke Friend, and she certainly embodied one of *Est's* central maxims. That maxim was: "If you say it, you are it." One of these days, they could put it on Armitage's gravestone.

[illegible]

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**Quick Crossword No. 8925**

**Across**

8 Self-reliant (11)  
7 Finest — magazine (4)  
9 Keeper — newspaper (9)  
9 Railway season car (7)  
11 Occasions (9)  
13 Cooking apparatus (9)  
14 Shrouded (7)  
15 Biography of deceased person in newspaper (9)  
17 Market Cognition Research Institute (4)  
18 Weekend — tax Eva Grant (ang) (11)

**Down**

1 Patches for publication (4)  
2 Cancers, why saying (7)  
3 Discredit with insult (pattern) (6)  
4 Capitan in large type (9)  
5 Unlaid (11)  
6 Formula known to only one man — Hevelius (6,5)

10 Rise supernaturally (8)  
12 Initiator (7)  
15 Polite way of addressing a lady (9)  
17 Alcoholic drink made from honey (4)

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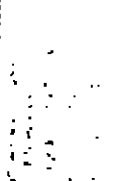
**Down**

10 Rise supernaturally (8)  
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15 Polite way of addressing a lady (9)  
17 Alcoholic drink made from honey (4)

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subsequent autopsy company claims that this was impossible. "You could say he was a genius," says Thomas Kasuborn, the deputy head of an eight-man Berlin murder squad investigating the death.

Born in Berlin, the only child of a Croatian father and a German mother who never married and who continue to live in Berlin, he was described by him as "very nebulous." He had in-

went to the post office, and used his grandmother's plastic card to get the money from the automatic teller. That was at 2.20pm. It was the last trace of Boris alive. His corpse was found two days later in a nearby park. He had never gone missing before. His parents and the police described him as "very nebulous." He had in-

to live separately, Boris was a handsome young man, slim, dark-haired, brown-eyed. He had few friends outside the hockey-squad-centers, and not so many girlfriends. "From the age of five or six, Boris was always making things and making things apart," says his 52-year-old mother, the ornate, talkative was a child. I used to take him to flea markets and we'd buy old radios and feed them to pieces.

Boris spent with his mother in the Borzh district of Kirovsk until, seven weeks, would go to the main post office to fetch 500 German marks for his infant grandfather who lived nearby On Saturday, October 17, at about two in the afternoon, he left home after eating spaghetti for lunch,

mobile phone with him, as even, his mother was not calls during the first investigation. "The subsequent investigation and the provisional post-mortem herself found that Boris killed himself," said the official police statement.

The estimated day of death was Tuesday, meaning Boris had been missing for three days before he died. His wallet, phone, and money were found in the possession. There was no sign of kidnapping or robbery or forensic examination found no evidence of Boris having been manhandled or strangled. The cause of death was indicated from his own blood.

"You can say conclusively that he post-mortem points to suicide," says

working harder and attending more diligently than men, although compliant towards a greater readiness to

younger women ease off a little in their second years. In the personality they are taught or w

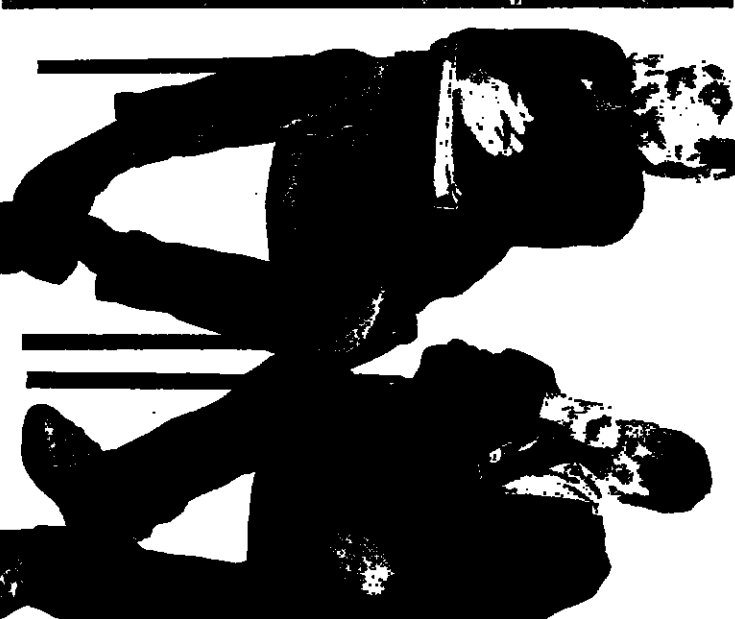
This may accou

money, provided by the government, has to be spent on "teaching-related activities".

Last year's Unilever Teacher of the Year, Tom Shinnage from the University of Western Australia, says the money came in very handy. "After years of not having any money for teaching —

of using their salary to pay for basic things like posters and Xeroxing. "I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed spending it," he says. "It has been income during the 25 years I've been teaching that what we do in as much as 70 per cent of our time has not been recognized in terms of promotion and tenure." Something that is about to change at Stannegg's own university.

4



**Division of the sexes**  
Good daytime results were obtained in the independent studies. The effect of the

[illegible]

least, women display a greater degree of "greenness" behavior. They are more likely to be environmentally conscious, to recycle, to conserve energy, and to support environmental causes. They are also more likely to be involved in community service and to volunteer for environmental organizations. This is true for women of all ages and ethnicities, and it is true for women who are married, single, or divorced. The only exception is for women who are in the middle of a divorce. These women are less likely to be environmentally conscious and to recycle, and they are less likely to be involved in community service and to volunteer for environmental organizations. This may be because they are still dealing with the stress of the divorce, and they are less likely to have the time and energy to be involved in these activities. However, once the divorce is over, women are more likely to be environmentally conscious and to recycle, and they are more likely to be involved in community service and to volunteer for environmental organizations. This suggests that the divorce process may have a negative impact on women's environmental behavior, but that this impact is temporary and that women are more likely to return to their previous level of environmental behavior once the divorce is over.

altruistic, more sympathetic and compliant towards others, and show a greater readiness to accept what they are taught or what they read. This may account partly for the

more important teaching the following day, when the business of spreading the begins.

than simply research. On a national level there is talk of introducing a system of accreditation of new appointments. It's a contentious issue that has led to lively discussions both within the universities and the Department for Education. "It's a logical out-

ing "I wouldn't have believed we were still fighting to do just to get teaching on the list. It's been quite a turn of events." **◆ See Teachers' career steps**

Caesar. I played Fourth Crowd Man and was compared by Felix Barker to the Evening News to Harpo Marx. The director gave me my little moment and I seized it. I chased a young woman down the length of the auditorium."

He helped found the Oxford University Monsters Club, which studied and stuck up for monsters in literature and film. "The Creature From the Black Lagoon was one of our favourites." When he arrived at Christ Church he felt overawed because everyone

hard' read Proust and Baudelaire and seemed so clever: "I talked to my mother about chucking it in and becoming a potter, but I'm very clumsy and would have made terrible pots."

ground as a writer and for three years was able to concentrate on that."

**Peter Kingstee**

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## Education

Women are edging ahead in the balance of the sexes. They also know the score when it comes to academic performance over their male contemporaries. **Peter Kingston** reports on a Sussex research programme that is seeking explanations



Sex at Sussex: male students talk the most in class

# Who is the brightest of

**D**on't have three kids — it's as simple as that! — James says at another student exchange. From this account of the outnumbers women by about four to one in the seminar. Actually, the balance between the sexes in this Sussex university social sciences department seminar tips the other way. There are four men and three women, not including Dr Ruth Woodfield, who is conducting it. It just seems as if there are more men from the disproportionate share of the talking they are doing, and it is pretty typical, says Woodfield. She has a special interest in this phenomenon because she and colleague Professor Pete Saunders are conducting a research project which is examining the differences between men and women's performances at university.

Over the past decade it has become noticeable that as the numbers of

women students in higher education have risen sharply, and, in fact, overtaken the numbers of men, the female students are consistently outperforming their male contemporaries. Significantly more of them are obtaining good 2:1 degrees.

Analysis of exam results achieved by Sussex students shows that by the end of the second year women are scoring between five and 10 percentage points higher than men. The average female score is 60 per cent, putting them in the 2:1 band, while the average male score is 55 per cent in the end-of-year exams.

Although many more women achieve 2:1s, in most subjects men still get more firsts and thirds. The five-year Sussex research programme, now in its third year, is seeking explanations.

Meanwhile, from dipping into this one Tuesday afternoon session for second and third-year social science students, you can see that, however withdrawn and uncommunicative chaps are supposed to be, in other settings compared to women, they don't shut up. "Men are more vocal in seminars," says Woodfield. "But I would always rather they talked because you can stop them talking too much. In a seminar there's nothing worse than nobody wanting to say anything."

This one dip into a seminar throws up another perceptible gender difference which is not untypical, she says. "The women may be speaking less but, by and large, they are taking more notes. The only student not writing is the James with the trademark remark on women and childbirth."

**"W**omen often have a lot to say in seminars, but don't say it," says Woodfield. "When you read their essays you find out that they've done all the reading and have something to say. I often write at the bottom of essays: 'You should be contributing in seminars.' Women are more likely to remain silent throughout a whole term of seminars and then produce a stunning essay or exam."

Saunders agrees. "The men's greater confidence, or whatever,

## Aussie Oscars for academics

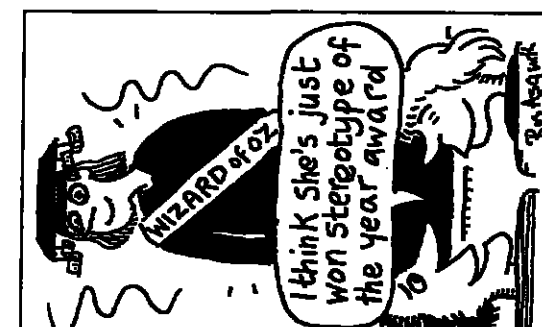
The status of teaching is recognised Down Under at a ceremony worthy of the best Hollywood bash. **Oliver Swanton** reports

Everyone remembers a good teacher and that is rewarded. But in Australia they have gone one step further. The government now publicly acknowledges good university teachers at an annual ceremony called the "Aussie Oscars for academics".

winners, as well as their institutions, benefited directly, with numerous examples of award recipients receiving greater recognition," he said.

At the very least, having an award winner at your university makes for good copy in the prospectus. And the impetus for the awards came from the universities, not the government.

Internal prizes for teaching excellence have spread throughout Australian universities during the last five years as attempts have been made to address the balance between teaching and research. The awards have given that movement a national focus and platform — and a much needed cash injection. The prize





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## Alternative medicine

# Good vib

**J**ust about everyone knows about acupuncture and homeopathy now; orthogony hardly seems unorthogonal nowadays. But cranial osteopathy? Would you run that past me again, please? Osteopathy is the manipulation of bones; cranial equals skull. So – skull manipulation. Surely some misanthrope? Yet the implicit premise that the brain pulses, causing the skull to pulse, makes barely perceptible vibrations, lies at the heart of two intensely related approaches which make up the fantasy-growing community of cranial osteopathy.

Cycles of stretch and release, of organ action and reaction, of body rhythms and natural vibrations – “the great impulse,” as one of the practitioners was described – were the basis of the rhythmic breathing that worked cars like mine and fed it down through the down-turned, open cranial

[illegible]

“Twitchees” — “unwinding,” according to your dentist, who reckoned that when dental work changes your jaw, the whole body is affected. I would go along with this mechanism explanation — the two bone connected to the head bone, the head bone connected to the neck bone, and so on. But no, he said, it’s not the bones! It’s the fascia that connects the body into a seamless whole.

You may be forgiven for never having heard of fascia (though you will have seen it at the butcher’s) — it’s the stuff on the surface of everything. It’s the sheath around your

that ties over the muscles and maintains a 3D network between them, covering bones, clothing, organs, aching tubes and living creatures. For example, osteopathy is all very fine on one being, but the physical marks of body change and the writing 'loom' for what could be called the 'rhythmic' system. This is constantly pulling away, in stretching, heartbeat, brain waves,

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David Peters

# Good vibs

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“Twitchees” — “unwinding,” according to your dentist, who reckoned that when dental work changes your jaw, the whole body is affected. I would go along with this mechanism explanation — the two bone connected to the head bone, the head bone connected to the neck bone, and so on. But no, he said, it’s not the bones! It’s the fascia that connects the body into a seamless whole.

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## Health

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**A definitive guide to treating common ailments**  
**No 4: Wisdom teeth**  
**Should they be removed?**

The problem: It is common for wisdom teeth to become impacted when they are jammed by other teeth or lack of space, which may cause infection. While there is no doubt that impacted teeth which are diseased or affecting other teeth or gums should be removed, dentists often take out symptom-free wisdom teeth, despite evidence that the risk of complications from the operation is higher than the risks involved in leaving them in.

**Why do dentists remove healthy teeth?** Some dentists argue wisdom teeth are better off than in because they have no useful purpose (evolution has already phased them out in 25 per cent of us) and may cause future problems. Some say if you are under anaesthetic for a removal anyway, you may as well have them all out since removing them when older is less risky. But numerous trials dispute these views.

**So when should wisdom teeth be removed?** It is sensible to remove healthy upper teeth when they are causing problems to the opposite lower gum. Impacting does not in itself necessitate removal — the tooth may still emerge normally. But there is a one in 10 chance of an impacted tooth causing inflammation of the gum — the most common reason for removal — and smaller risks of infection, decay or cysts. It is not possible to predict which teeth will develop problems, but they are most common in young adults.

**What symptoms signal problems?** Pain, redness and swelling.

**What does removal entail?** Wisdom teeth can be removed under local or general anaesthetic in the dentist's surgery or hospital. General anaesthetic is currently more common, but this will change as new guidance tightens up use of general anaesthesia in dentistry. You usually go home the same day.

**Is removal risk-free?** No. It is normal to suffer pain, swelling and stiffness for at least three days. In addition, about 12 per cent of people under 20 and 21 per cent of older people suffer serious complications, including infection, prolonged bleeding or pain, and up to one in five people suffer nerve damage. Out of 250,000 patients having general anaesthetic for all types of dental surgery, there are two or three deaths a year.

**So what's the best course?** Despite the risks, it is still better to remove problem wisdom teeth. But if they are not causing problems, leave well alone.

Wendy Moore

## Four steps to freedom

Alternative medicine  
 David Roberts

# Is your food allergy a fiction?

New research suggests that the intolerance many people claim for certain foodstuffs is all in their minds. **Jenny Ameghino** reports



Glucose takes the biscuit... but it may be worth checking suspected food intolerances

**O**n five people in Britain today believe they are allergic to certain foods. In the often baffling struggle for diagnosis, skin prick and placebo challenges compete against hair analysis and muscle testing to provide answers. But recent research from the University of Birmingham due to be reported in the *Journal of Psychosomatic Research* suggests many of these intolerances are all in the mind, and scientists believe many people may be unnecessarily suffering everyday foods because of imaginary allergies and fads.

Chronic symptoms such as stomach aches and rashes are just as likely to be caused by an underlying illness or an environmental factor like stress or pollen. And avoiding some foods may even be counter-productive, affecting overall health. The three-year study by the university's psychology department, comparing 300 randomly chosen sufferers with 600 healthy people, found little firm evidence to link food to any symptoms.

"While 66 per cent of sufferers' histories were found to be plausible and a third were possible, only 26 per cent were thought by a clinical dietitian and a professor of gastroenterology to have a proper food intolerance," reports psychologist Rebecca Kilb, who worked on the project. Of the 300 sufferers, 201 were self-diagnosed, she says. "But no one had gone for adequate testing. People tended to rely on the advice of family and friends or to refer to what they read in magazine articles on food. They might have been under great stress or had problems at work yet they still felt food was causing their symptoms."

Many people blamed a single reaction on a food they'd eaten just once. When it didn't recur they assumed that food was to blame and avoided it in future.

Headaches, stomach disorders and hyperactivity in children were the most common complaints from the study's subjects, while dandruff, dairy products, nuts, sweets and soft drinks topped the list of offenders.

However, the cases of some par-

Precious clinical trials have shown that only 10 per cent of symptoms can be reproduced when people eat disguised food. "There's no question people had genuine physical symptoms. The point is, people believe a food is responsible," says Professor David Booth, head of the university's nutritional psychology group, who advises sufferers to reassess the grounds for their beliefs because her mouth numbed and swelled whenever she ate banana ice-cream. Halving the amount appeared to do the trick until it emerged that she was reacting to the coldness of the ice-cream, not the flavouring.

Simple home experiments might prevent people jumping to conclusions, he suggests — "excluding a suspected food to see if symptoms improve and then reintroducing it is a first step". But whatever you do, don't remove major foods from your diet without medical advice, urges Dr Elageth Young, consultant dermatologist at Amersham Hospital, Buckinghamshire. "There is a danger of malnutrition in a self-manipulated diet," she says, stressing that

## Women



After the abortion... and the face in shadow that says it all

# The truth about abortion

One in four women will have one. And one woman stands poised to make a real difference to Britain's abortion law. But when medical advances make the decision harder then ever, where is she to start? **Yvonne Roberts** reports

**O**n four women will have a termination. So why 30 years after abortion was legalised, is it still so difficult to seek the truth about it? The 1967 legislation bears much of the blame. It gave control to doctors, set a moral tone and created a situation in which subterfuge has been used to keep abortion provision within the NHS (from 97 per cent in Scotland to under 80 per cent in parts of England).

It has to be time for a change and Mark Eagle, Labour MP for the Liverpool constituency of Garston, may be the woman to bring it about. Eagle came second in last week's draw for private members' bills. She has a plan. Votes for Choice, a coalition of family planning and abortion organisations, established this year, will be pressing for her to take on a bill that would modernise Britain's abortion law. "The momentum for change hasn't been as it was for a long time," says Voice for Choice's Jane Roe.

In parliament, the traditional position on abortion has been defensive, but the arrival of New Labour has seen a profound change. For the first time in 30 years, a pro-choice all-party group has been established, while health minister Frank Dobson recently called for abortion on the signature of one doctor. Instead of two, *Voices for Choice* — backed, according to a recent Harris poll, by 77 per cent of the population — wants to go further. It wants power removed from doctors in the first three months of pregnancy, allowing women to decide for themselves. It also wants doctors to declare a conscientious objection (a third of medical students opt out of learning termination techniques); universal NHS provision; the inclusion of Northern Ireland.

Abortion law reform is a conscience issue, so it can become a reality only through a private member's bill. "If it doesn't happen this time, we won't go away until it does," Roe says. What would undoubtedly help is the pro-choice arguments to adapt to today's reality. For instance, it's less easy now than in 1967 to treat the fetus as a blob of tissue. Ultrasound and computer graphics give us a window on its world. Babies are born at 23 weeks and can survive after a struggle. At the same time, the fetal rights movement is making a powerful impact, particularly on the young.

In this context, the pro-choice lobby has to do more than repeat the mantra "A woman's right to choose". Ann Furedi of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service argues that it has to engage more vigorously with the issues raised by the pro-life movement. Issues such as why a woman's right to reject unwilling motherhood carries more weight than the right to life of a fetus capable of survival outside the womb. (This question was brought into focus yesterday with news that Zoe McLeish, born four months ago at just 11 ounces, has survived to return home.) And why, if there is liberalisation of the law in early pregnancy, is it not also time to reconsider the upper time limit.

"The majority of women who seek a difference to the lives of so many."

an abortion," Furedi argues, "we're on the verge of a serious breakdown as we are led to believe. They are women who could incorporate a child into their lives if they absolutely had to. They are not incapable of coping; they do not want to have to cope. Society needs to decide whether we support women for whom abortion is a choice rather than necessity."

Last year, almost 180,000 women had terminations, half between nine and 12 weeks. According to the 1967 act, a woman requires the approval of two doctors who agree that her life is at risk or the baby will be severely handicapped or the woman or her children's physical or mental health will be impaired. Ellie Lee, writing a PhD on Psychological Abortion, says "mould of vulnerability was set in the original debates in the Commons back in the sixties and, in public at least, has changed little since. 'The view was that women were intended to have babies, so anyone who didn't want to continue with a pregnancy had to be either feeble or a victim'."

In practice, Lee says, abortion has become "normalised". "Among the reasons for it will be responsible choices such as delaying motherhood or not wanting to be a parent. This is a decision a competent, self-aware woman is perfectly capable of making, so why in early pregnancy, should she need a doctor's permission?"

Furedi says this normalisation reflects awareness that contraception isn't always enough. "Sometimes it fails, sometimes we fail to use it." One in three pregnancies is unplanned; 70 per cent involve contraception. Fella tell us the public see abortion as morally problematic but in certain circumstances right for an individual. "The question is: who should decide which are appropriate circumstances?"

Honesty has to be the first step to a more mature debate on abortion. Yet when openness is displayed, the media's reaction is horror. Marie Stopes International was criticised last year, for instance, when it offered 10-minute terminations, dubbed "lunchtime abortions" in the press and since used by 10,000 women. "If a woman isn't suffering before, during and after a termination, that isn't deemed acceptable," says Tony Kerridge of Marie Stopes. "What that tells us is that abortion is still regarded as an act that demands punishment."

Any new debate on abortion may require not only fresh arguments but different voices, too, and not least among the four million women who have had terminations. I've had three in 20 years. I felt relief at the first, passing sadness at the second and more disgust at the third. The morality of taking a potential life concerned me deeply, but I have no regrets.

I would prefer that my daughters never have to face a similar decision. But should they do so, I would hope the secrecy, stigma and control of the doctors will have long been banished. And that's where Maria Eagle may yet decide to play her part. If nothing else, she may be the thought leader that it's not often a single MP can make a difference to the lives of so many.



# No man - no cry

Passing herself away from the studio, she spent the summer criss-crossing the USA with the *Lilith Fair* all-woman roadshow. "It really was wonderful to play for an audience that

posed to change it  
everyone else can  
change? All I know  
is that I don't hear  
as much interest  
ing stuff on  
country radio  
as I know it  
out there.

She says  
that if she  
had her own  
country

The young Anthony told that Parsons knew was a severely beautiful southern belle, who was born in Birmingham, Alabama in 1917; Her father, Walter was a Marine pilot, and her mother Eugenia came from a farming family. Before studying dramatic arts at Boston University, she was a high school beauty queen.

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12 January 1989.

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## Comedy review

**Henry Rollins** ★ ★ ★  
Astoria, London

Billy Connolly gave up folk music for comedy when he realised audiences responded more to his between-song banter than his singing. Henry Rollins notes not to do something similar.

Rollins established himself as the footman of Californian noise

spoken word a lucrative arena. Lydia Lunch and Jello Biafra have recently played to sold-out houses in London and Rollins, now 37, manages to duplicate this across a good part of Europe and Australia.

Whirling up his British tour, he took to the stage armed with microphone, water and colossal enthusiasm. Rollins is a remarkable

recounters and his good-humoured pants are those of the American everyman. *Geordies are incompetent, Germans upright,* women magical to men and ageing heavy metal hands radiate flirtation.

Rollins is the butt of his own jokes — Mr. Andy Klementz, Neurotic Boy — and his material, drawn from experiences on movie sets and music venues, kept the

audience chomping.

That said, he benefits from industry clout, a gift on the treadmill of Top Gun, lasts as long as the film. And only those with a genuine interest in Rottman would stay the near three-hour duration. An appreciation of the punk rock ethic — "At least, I think harder — wouldn't go as far as I'd like to go" — wouldn't go as far as I'd like to go. And only those with a genuine interest in Rottman would stay the near three-hour duration.

Three bottles of Hardys

either reform, ala the Sex Pistol, or contribute to the South Park album (er, Joe Strummer...), Hunter's punk vanguard has found the

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[illegible]